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<p>(54) Title: CATHETERS, SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR PERCUTANEOUS IN SITU ARTERIO-VEINUS BYPASS</p> <div data-bbox="451 1142 1182 1759"> </div> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>A system of catheter devices (10), and methods for forming channels or passageways between a luminal anatomical structure (e.g., a blood vessel), a target location (e.g., another blood vessel, an organ, a mass of tissue, etc.) for the purpose of rerouting blood flow or for delivering a substance or instrument, etc. to the target location.</p>		

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0 **CATHETERS, SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR**
 PERCUTANEOUS IN SITU ARTERIO-VEINOUS BYPASS

Related Application

 This application claims priority to United States Provisional Patent
5 Application Serial No. 60/080,196 entitled Methods and Apparatus for
 Percutaneous In Situ Coronary Artery Bypass, filed March 31, 1998.

Field of the Invention

 The present invention relates generally to medical devices and
10 methods, and more particularly to catheter devices and methods that are
 useable to form channels (e.g., penetration tracts) between vessels such as
 arteries and veins as well as between vessels and other anatomical
 structures, in furtherance of a therapeutic purpose such as bypassing an
 arterial blockage, delivering therapeutic agents, or performing other
15 interventional procedures.

Background of the Invention

 Applicant has invented several new interventional procedures
 wherein channels (e.g., bloodflow passageway(s)) are formed between
20 blood vessels, and between blood vessels and other target structures, using
 transluminally advanceable catheters. These new procedures include novel
 percutaneous, transluminal techniques for bypassing obstructions in
 coronary or peripheral arteries through the use of the adjacent vein(s) as *in*
 situ bypass conduit(s), and other means of revascularizing oxygen starved
25 tissues or delivering therapeutic substances to vessels, tissue and other
 organs. These procedures are fully described in United States Patent
 5,830,222 and in United States Patent Applications 08/730,496, 09/048,147
 and 09/048,147. Some of these procedures may be performed by a venous

0 approach, such as vein-to-artery wherein a tissue penetrating catheter is
inserted into a vein and the desired arterio-venous passageway is initially
formed by passing a tissue penetrating element (e.g., a flow of energy or an
elongate penetration member) from a catheter, through the wall of the vein
in which the catheter is positioned, and into the lumen of an adjacent artery.
5 Alternatively, some of these procedures may be performed by an artery-to-
vein approach wherein the catheter is inserted into an artery and the desired
arterio-venous passageway is initially formed by passing a tissue
penetrating element (e.g., a flow of energy or elongate penetration member
) from the catheter, through the wall of the artery in which the catheter is
10 positioned, and into the lumen of an adjacent vein. Both approaches have
been previously described in United States Patent Application 08/730,327.
In addition, it may be advantageous to direct a penetrating element directly
into other anatomical structures such as the myocardium, pericardium,
chamber of the heart or other organs as described in United States Patent
15 Application 09/048,147.

Different considerations and limitations may apply, depending upon
which of these approaches (the "vein-to-artery approach, the "artery-to-vein"
approach, or vessel to other anatomical structure) is being used or, more
generally, the size and contour of the blood vessel lumen in which the
operative catheters are to be placed, and the distance and/or angle between
20 the vessels or other target. This is due in part to the fact that, in the heart
as well as in other areas of the body, adjacent arteries and veins may be of
significantly different diameter and significantly different dilatory capability.
In addition, depending on the procedure to be performed, for example, such
25 as the desired angle of channel creation between blood vessels, one
approach may be preferred over the other, to promote, among other things,
blood flow channels that encourage non-turbulent blood flow. Also, the
consequences associated with causing temporary complete obstruction of

0 a vein may be significantly less than the consequences of causing temporary complete obstruction of an artery. Thus, it is desirable to devise tissue penetrating catheters of the above-described type that are sized, configured and/or equipped differently for use in blood vessels of different sizes, shapes and in connection with different types of pathology.

5 Moreover, it is desirable for tissue penetrating catheters of the above-described type to be constructed and equipped for precise aiming and control of the tissue penetrating element as the tissue penetrating element passes from the catheter, through at least the wall of the blood vessel in which the catheter is located, and to the target location. Such aiming and control of the tissue penetrating element ensures that it will create the
10 desired penetration tract at the intended location with minimal or no damage to surrounding tissues or other structures.

Summary of the Invention

15 The present invention provides methods and apparatus for performing the percutaneous *in situ* coronary arterio-venous bypass procedures generally described in United States Patent No. 5,830,222 and United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/730,327, and other procedures requiring the use of accurately placed catheter elements.

A. Devices and System:

20 In accordance with the invention, there is provided a system for forming an initial penetration tract from the lumen of a blood vessel in which the catheter is positioned to a target location (such as another blood vessel, organ or myocardial tissue). This system generally comprises:

25 a) a coronary sinus guide catheter which is insertable within the venous system of the body and into the coronary sinus of the heart;

b) a tissue penetrating catheter which is advanceable to a position within a coronary vein, such tissue-penetrating

0 catheter comprising i) a flexible catheter body, ii) a tissue
penetrating element (e.g., a needle member, electrode or flow
of energy) which is passable from the catheter body, through
the wall of the coronary vein in which the catheter body is
5 positioned and into the lumen of an adjacent coronary artery,
or other targeted structure, iii) an imaging lumen through
which an imaging catheter (e.g., an intravascular ultrasound
imaging (IVUS) catheter) may be passed; and,

c) a separate imaging catheter (e.g., an intravascular
ultrasound (IVUS) catheter) that is advanceable through the
10 imaging lumen of the tissue-penetrating catheter.

In addition to components a-c above, this catheter
system may include a subselective sheath and introducer.
The subselective sheath comprises a flexible tubular sheath
that has a proximal end, a distal end and a lumen extending
15 therethrough. The introducer is insertable through the lumen
of the sheath and has a tapered, non-traumatizing distal
portion that protrudes out of and beyond the distal end of the
sheath as well as a guidewire lumen extending longitudinally
therethrough. The tapered, non-traumatic distal portion of the
20 introducer serves to dilate the blood vessel lumens or
openings through which the sheath is inserted, thereby
facilitating advancement and positioning of the sheath at a
desired location within the body. After the sheath has been
advanced to its desired position within the body, the
25 introducer is extracted and various channel modifying
catheters, connector delivery catheters and/or blocker delivery
catheters may be advanced through the subselective sheath.

0 The coronary sinus guide catheter may incorporate a
hemostatic valve to prevent backflow or leakage of blood from the
proximal end thereof. Also, the coronary sinus guide catheter may
include an introducer that is initially insertable through the guide
5 catheter lumen. This introducer has a tapered, non-traumatizing distal
portion that protrudes out of and beyond the distal end of the guide
catheter, and a guidewire lumen extending longitudinally
therethrough. The tapered, non-traumatizing distal portion of the
introducer served to dilate the blood vessel lumens through which the
10 guide catheter is inserted, thereby facilitating advancement and
positioning of the coronary sinus guide catheter within the coronary
venous sinus.

15 The tissue-penetrating catheter may incorporate one or more
of the following elements to facilitate precise aiming and control of the
tissue-penetration element and the formation of the passageway at
the desired location:

20 a) Orientation Structure: An orientation structure may
be positioned or formed on the distal end of the tissue
penetrating catheter. This orientation structure has i) a hollow
cavity or space formed therewithin in alignment with the
catheter's imaging lumen and ii) a marker member positioned
in direct alignment with the opening in the catheter through
which the tissue penetrating element emerges (or otherwise
in some known spacial relationship to the path that will be
followed by the tissue penetrating element as it passes from
25 the tissue penetrating catheter). The separate imaging
catheter may be advanced through the tissue penetrating
catheter's imaging lumen and into the receiving space of the
orientation structure. Thereafter, the imaging catheter is

0 useable to image the target location as well as the marker.
The image of the marker provides a path indication that is
indicative of the path that will be followed by the tissue
penetrating element as it passes from the tissue penetrating
catheter. The operator may then adjust the rotational
5 orientation of the tissue penetrating catheter as necessary to
cause the path indication to be aligned with or aimed at the
target location, thereby indicating that when the tissue
penetrating member is subsequently passed from the catheter
body, it will advance into the target location and not to some
10 other location. In this manner the imaging lumen, separate
imaging catheter and orientation structure that are
incorporated into the catheter system of this invention
operate, in combination with each other, to facilitate precise
rotational orientation of the tissue penetrating catheter and
15 aiming of the tissue penetrating element *before the tissue
penetrating element is advanced*, thereby ensuring that the
tissue penetrating element will enter the desired target at the
desired location. In particular, the orientation structure may
comprise a plurality (e.g., three) of longitudinal struts, such
20 longitudinal struts being disposed about a central space into
which the IVUS catheter may be advanced. One of such
longitudinal struts may be aligned or specifically positioned in
relation to the path that will be followed by the tissue
penetrating element as it passes from the catheter, thereby
25 providing on the display of the image received from the IVUS
catheter, an artifact of other indication delineating the path or
direction in which the tissue penetrating element will pass.
The tissue-penetrating catheter may then be selectively

0 rotated to aim the tissue penetrating element into the lumen
of the artery or other target anatomical structure into which it
is intended to pass.

5 b) Soft Distal Tip Member: The catheter may
incorporate a soft distal tip member that is formed or mounted
on the distal end of the tissue-penetrating catheter (e.g., on
the distal aspect of the above-described orientation structure).
Such soft tip member is preferably formed of material which is
soft enough to avoid trauma to the walls of the blood vessels
through which the tissue-penetrating catheter is passed. A
10 lumen may extend longitudinally through the soft tip member,
to allow the operator to selectively advance the IVUS catheter
or other device beyond the distal end of the tissue-penetrating
catheter when it is desired to image blood vessels or other
structures located distal to the then-current position of the
tissue-penetrating catheter or perform other diagnostic
15 functions with said IVUS catheter or other device.

20 c) Tissue Penetrating Member Stabilizer: In
embodiments wherein the tissue penetrating element is a
needle or other elongate member that is advanceable laterally
from the catheter body, the tissue penetrating catheter may
incorporate a stabilizer to prevent or deter the tissue
penetrating member from rotating or deviating from a
predetermined acceptable penetration zone (APZ) (hereinafter
sometimes referred to as the "stabilizer"). As used herein, the
25 term stabilizer shall mean any structural or functional
attributes of the catheter and/or tissue penetrating member
that deter or prevent the tissue penetrating member from
rotating or otherwise deviating from its intended path of

0 advancement within a predetermined acceptable penetration
zone (APZ). Examples of such structural and/or functional
attributes include but are not limited to; curved distal housing
5 formed to mirror the curve or form of the tissue penetrating
element, engagement projections or elements for frictional
engagement between the tissue penetrating member and the
catheter body, bushings or narrowed/reduced diameter
regions of the tissue penetration member lumen that serve to
10 constrain the tissue penetrating member preventing side-to-
side play or movement thereof, permanent magnets or
electromagnets that create a magnetic field that prevents or
deters lateral or rotational movement of the tissue penetrating
member, etc. More specifically, for example, this stabilizer
may comprise one or more of the following:

15 i) a curved needle housing which mates
(i.e. has the same direction of curvature) with a
preformed curvature formed in the needle. This
mating of the curvatures of the needle and
needle housing serves to deter unwanted
20 rotation and resultant lateral deviation (flopping
or wagging) of the portion of the needle which
extends out of the catheter body;

25 ii) frictionally engaged surfaces formed
on the needle member and surrounding
catheter body (e.g., the wall of the lumen in
which the needle member is disposed) to lock
or deter rotation of the needle member relative
to the catheter body;

0 iii) a steering mechanism for causing
the distal portion of the catheter body to
become curved in the direction in which the
needle member is intended to advance so as to
cause the preformed curve of the needle
5 member to mate with the induced curvature of
the surrounding catheter body; and,

 iv) A laterally deployable needle guide
member (e.g., a balloon or rigid annular
structure) that is deployable from side of the
10 tissue penetrating catheter adjacent to the
outlet opening through which the tissue
penetrating member passes to support and
prevent unwanted lateral "play" or movement of
the tissue penetrating member as it is advanced
15 from the catheter. This outwardly deployable
needle guide member is initially disposed in a
"stowed" position wherein it does not protrude
(or only minimally protrudes) from the catheter
body, and is subsequently deployable to an
20 "active" position wherein it protrudes laterally
from the catheter body, in the area of the
needle outlet aperture, to provide support
and/or guidance for the advancing tissue
penetrating element (e.g., needle member or
25 flow of energy) as the tissue penetrating
element passes from the catheter body to the
target location. This laterally deployable needle
guide member may comprise a tubular cuff that

0 has a lumen. The lumen of such tubular cuff
may form, in combination with the catheter
lumen in which the tissue penetrating element
is positioned, a curvature that mates with or
conforms to the preformed or intended
5 curvature of the path of the tissue penetrating
element as it passes from the catheter to the
target location. In cases where the tissue
penetrating element is a curved needle, the
curvature of the laterally deployable needle
10 guide member and/or catheter lumen may mate
with or be the same as the curvature of the
needle member.

d) Needle Member Locking Apparatus: The tissue
penetrating catheter may incorporate an apparatus that
15 prevents or deters rotation of the tissue penetration member
within the catheter body *prior* to its advancement out of the
catheter. Such rotational locking of the tissue penetrating
member while it is in its retracted position serves i) to
maintain the desired rotational orientation of the needle
20 member and ii) to enhance or couple the transfer of torque
from the proximal end of the catheter to the distal end of the
needle, without the addition of mass or cross-sectional
dimension to the catheter body.

e) Catheter Body Construction: The tissue
25 penetrating device may comprise an elongate catheter body
12 with proximal, medial and distal segments of varying
flexibility and torque strength as described more fully in United
States Patent Application 08/837,294, incorporated herein by

0 reference. Said catheter body may incorporate reinforcement
members such as a reinforcement braid member which
imparts structural integrity/stability as well as enhancing the
ability of the catheter body to transmit torque along its length.
In addition, it may be important for said reinforcement member
5 to maintain the longitudinal integrity of said catheter body, and
to minimize any variability of the catheter components during
operation in the body.

B. Methods:

Further in accordance with the invention, there are provided methods
10 for using the above-summarized catheter system to bypass an obstruction
in a coronary artery by forming one or more arterio-venous passageways.
Examples of these methods are the Percutaneous In Situ Coronary Artery
Bypass (PICAB), as well as the Percutaneous Coronary Venous
Arterialization (PICVA). It is understood that the same orientation steps and
15 procedures may be used to access various targets and anatomical
structures from placement of a tissue penetrating catheter within a blood
vessel and orienting said catheter in accordance with this invention.

i. Percutaneous In Situ Coronary Artery Bypass (PICAB)

The PICAB procedure generally comprises the following steps:

- 20 1. Introduce a coronary sinus guide catheter into the coronary sinus;
2. Pass a tissue-penetrating catheter of the above-described type
through the guide catheter and into the coronary vein;
3. Position an IVUS catheter or ultrasound transducer within the
orientation structure of the tissue-penetrating catheter, and utilize the IVUS
25 catheter or ultrasound transducer to view the artery into which the arterio-
venous passageway is to extend as well as the marker that denotes the
path that will be followed by the tissue penetrating member as it is advanced
from the catheter body;

0 4. Rotate or move the tissue-penetrating catheter, as necessary, to cause the needle path indicator generated by the marker to become aligned with the lumen of the artery; and,

5 5. Pass the tissue penetrating element from the catheter, through the wall of the vein in which the catheter is positioned, and into the lumen of the artery, thereby forming an initial arterio-venous passageway distal to the arterial obstruction. In some embodiments, the tissue penetrating element has a lumen extending longitudinally therethrough for passage of a guidewire from vessel to vessel.

10 6. Move the catheter to a second location and repeat steps 4-6 to form an initial arterio-venous passageway proximal to the arterial obstruction.

 7. Enlarge the proximal and distal arterio-venous passageways, if necessary, to permit the desired volume of blood flow through such passageways.

15 8. Place connector(s), stent(s), liner(s) or other stenting or connecting devices within the proximal and/or distal passageways, if necessary, to maintain the patency of the passageways; and,

20 9. Optionally, if necessary, place one or more blocker(s) within the coronary vein, or otherwise fully or partially block blood flow through the coronary vein, at location(s) that urge arterial blood to flow from the artery, through the first passageway and into the vein, through a segment of the vein, through the second passageway, and back into the artery (downstream of the blockage), thereby restoring arterial blood flow to the ischemic myocardium.

25

0 **ii. Percutaneous Coronary Venous Arterialization (PICVA)**

Further, in accordance with the present invention, there is provided a method for Percutaneous In Situ Coronary Venous Arterialization (PICVA) procedure, using a catheter system of the foregoing character. This preferred PICVA procedure generally comprises the steps of:

- 5 1. Introduce a coronary sinus guide catheter into the coronary sinus;
2. Pass a tissue-penetrating catheter of the above-described type through the guide catheter and into the coronary vein;
- 10 3. Position an IVUS catheter or ultrasound transducer within the orientation structure of the tissue-penetrating catheter, and utilize the IVUS catheter or ultrasound transducer to view the artery into which the arterio-venous passageway is to extend as well as the marker that denotes the path that will be followed by the tissue penetrating member as it is advanced
- 15 4. Rotate or move the tissue-penetrating catheter, as necessary, to cause the needle path indicator generated by the marker to become aligned with the lumen of the artery; and,
5. Pass the tissue penetrating element from the catheter, through the wall of the vein in which the catheter is positioned, and into the lumen of the artery, thereby forming an initial arterio-venous passageway distal to the arterial obstruction.
- 20 . In some embodiments, the tissue penetrating element has a lumen extending longitudinally therethrough for passage of a guidewire from vessel to vessel.
- 25 6. Enlarge the initial arterio-venous passageways, if necessary, to permit the desired volume of blood flow through such passageway.

- 0 7. Place connector(s), stent(s), liner(s) or other stenting or
 connecting devices within the arterio-venous passageway, if
 necessary, to maintain the patency of the passageway; and,
 8. Optionally, if necessary, place one or more blocker(s) within
5 the coronary vein, or otherwise fully or partially block blood
 flow through the coronary vein, at location(s) that urge arterial
 blood to flow from the artery, through the arterio-venous
 passageway and into the vein, such that the arterial blood will
 flow through the vein in a direction opposite normal venous
10 flow, thereby retro-perfusing the ischemic myocardium by
 arterialization of the coronary vein.

Further aspects and advantages of the present invention will become
apparent to those of skill in the art upon reading and understanding the
detailed description of preferred embodiments set forth herebelow and the
accompanying drawings.

15 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

Figure 1 is a schematic showing of a human being having a tissue-
penetrating catheter system of the present invention percutaneously
inserted via a femoral entry site.

20 Figure 1a is a broken, side elevational view of a first embodiment of
a tissue-penetrating catheter of the present invention.

Figure 1b is an enlarged view of the distal end of the catheter of
Figure 1b.

Figure 1b' is a broken, side view of the catheter body construction of
the catheter shaft of a tissue penetrating catheter of the present invention.

25 Figure 1b'' is a detailed view of the braided construction of the
catheter shaft of Figure 1b'.

Figure 1c is a cross sectional view through line 1c-1c of Figure 1a.

Figure 1d is a cross sectional view through line 1d-1d of Figure 1a.

0 Figure 1e is an enlarged, side elevational view of the needle housing/stabilizer assembly of the catheter of Figure 1a.

 Figure 1f is a cross sectional view through line 1f-1f of Figure 1e.

 Figure 1f is a cross sectional view through line 1f-1f of Figure 1f.

5 Figure 2 is a representation of the intravascular ultrasound image that is obtained when the tissue-penetrating catheter of Figure 1a is positioned within a coronary vein and properly oriented/aimed such that deployment of its tissue penetrating member will form a penetration tract (i.e., a passageway) from the coronary vein to an adjacent coronary artery.

10 Figure 3 is a representation of the intravascular ultrasound image which is obtained when the tissue-penetrating catheter of Figure 1 a is positioned within coronary vein and *improperly* oriented/aimed such that deployment of its tissue penetrating member will *not* form a passageway from the coronary vein to the adjacent coronary artery.

15 Figure 4 is a side elevational view of a subselective sheath and accompanying introducer that are useable in combination with the tissue-penetrating catheter of the present invention.

 Figure 4 a is a side elevational view of a dilator that is insertable through and useable in conjunction with the subselective sheath of Figure 4.

20 Figure 5 is a partial longitudinal sectional view of the subselective sheath of Figure 4 having the dilator of Figure 4 a operatively inserted therein.

 Figure 5a is an enlarged, cross sectional view through line 5a-5a of Figure 5.

25 Figure 6 is an enlarged, longitudinal sectional view of the distal portion of the subselective sheath of Figure 4.

 Figure 7 is a side elevational view of the tissue puncturing needle member of the tissue-penetrating catheter of Figure 1 a.

0 Figures 8a is an enlarged, side elevational view of the distal end of the needle member of Figure 7.

 Figure 8b is an enlarged top view of the of the distal end of the needle member of Figure 7.

5 Figures 9 & 9a show the hand piece/needle controller and distal end, respectively, of tissue-penetrating catheter of Figure 1 a with its tissue penetrating needle member in its retracted position.

 Figures 10 & 10a show the handpiece/needle controller and distal end, respectively, of tissue-penetrating catheter of Figure 1 a with its tissue penetrating needle member in its fully advanced position.

10 Figure 10 d is a side elevational view of an optional rotation-inhibiting key insert and corresponding keyed needle member which may be incorporated into the tissue-penetrating catheters of the present invention to prevent the tissue-penetrating needle member from rotating relative to the body of the catheter.

15 Figure 10 d' is a cross sectional view through line 10 d'-10 d' of Figure 10 d.

 Figure 10 d" is a cross sectional view through line 10 d"-10 d" of Figure 10 d.

20 Figure 10 e is a side elevational view of an optional rotation-inhibiting oval insert and corresponding oval shaped needle member which may be incorporated into the tissue-penetrating catheters of the present invention to prevent the tissue-penetrating needle member from rotating relative to the body of the catheter.

25 Figure 10 e' is a cross sectional view through line 10 e'-10 e' of Figure 10 e.

 Figure 10 e" is a cross sectional view through line 10 e"-10 e" of Figure 10 e.

0 Figure 10 f is a partial longitudinal sectional view of a tissue-penetrating catheter device of the present invention incorporating an optional locking collar apparatus for preventing the tissue penetrating needle member from rotating relative to the catheter body when the needle member is in its retracted position.

5 Figure 10 f' is an enlarged view of region 10 f' of Figure 10 f.

 Figure 10 g is a side elevational view of a tissue-penetrating catheter of the present invention having a laterally deployable needle stabilizer disposed in its "stowed" position.

10 Figure 10 g' is a side elevational view of a tissue-penetrating catheter of the present invention having a laterally deployable needle stabilizer disposed in its "active" position.

 Figure 11 is a side elevational view of a coronary sinus guide catheter/introducer assembly of the present invention.

15 Figure 11a is a cross-sectional view through line 11a-11a of Figure 11.

 Figure 11b is an enlarged, longitudinal sectional view of the proximal end/hemostatic valve of the coronary sinus guide catheter shown in Figure 11.

20 Figure 11c is broken, side elevational view of the introducer of the coronary sinus guide catheter/introducer assembly.

 Figure 12 is an enlarged, cross-sectional view through a coronary artery and adjacent coronary vein, showing the typical difference in diameter of the artery and vein, and delineating a preferred Acceptable penetration zone (APZ) wherein the arterio-venous bloodflow passageways of the present invention are formed.

25 Figures 13a-13x are schematic, step-by-step showings of a preferred method for performing a percutaneous, *in situ* coronary arterio-venous

0 bypass (PICAB) procedure to bypass a blockage in the proximal Left Anterior Descending coronary artery, using a a vein-to-artery approach.

Figures 14 a-14m are schematic, step-by-step showings of a preferred method for performing a percutaneous coronary venous arterialization (PICVA) procedure to provide retrograde arterial bloodflow
5 through a coronary vein.

Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments

The following detailed description, and the drawings to which it refers, are provided for the purpose of describing and illustrating certain preferred embodiments or examples of the invention only, and no attempt has been
10 made to exhaustively describe all possible embodiments or examples of the invention. For example, the tissue penetrating catheter of this invention may be utilized in numerous locations in the body to reliably access organs, tissue or other structures to deliver therapeutic substances or procedures. Thus, the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings are
15 not intended to limit, in any way, the scope of the claims recited in this patent application and any patent(s) issuing therefrom.

A. The Catheter System:

Referring generally to Figures 1-12, a presently preferred catheter system of the present invention generally comprises i) a tissue-penetrating catheter component 10 (Figures 1-3 and 7-10 a), ii) a subselective
20 sheath/introducer component 100 (Figures 4-6) and iii) a coronary sinus guide catheter/introducer component 200 (Figures 11-11c). Each of these components is described in substantial detail herebelow. These components of the catheter system may be packaged together in a single
25 kit, or may be provided in separate packages to permit the operator to mix and match component sizes in accordance with the particular anatomy of the patient, the size of the channels to be formed, the types of connectors and/or stents and/or blockers to be used, etc.

0 **I. The Tissue-Penetrating Catheter Component of the Catheter System:**

 Referring to Figures 1-3 and 7-10 there is shown a tissue-penetrating catheter device 10 which is insertable into the vasculature of a mammalian patient and useable to form passageways (e.g., puncture tracts) between
5 the blood vessel in which the distal end of the catheter device 10 is situated and another blood vessel or other anatomical structure. This catheter device 10 generally comprises an elongate, flexible catheter body 12 having a proximal portion 12_p of a first diameter D₁ and a distal portion 12_d of a second diameter D₂ which is smaller than the first diameter D₁. The catheter
10 body 12 has two (2) lumens 14, 16 which extend longitudinally therethrough. The first lumen 14 is sized and configured to permit a standard commercially available IVUS catheter (e.g., those available from Endosonics of Rancho Cordova, CA; CVIS of Natick, MA or Hewlett-Packard of Andover, MA) to be inserted therethrough and slidably disposed therewith. The second lumen
15 16 is sized and configured to house a tissue penetrating needle member 30 (see Figures 7, 9 and 10) which is alternately moveable between i) a retracted position (Figures 9-9a) wherein the distal end DE of the needle member 30 is contained within the catheter body 12, and ii) an extended position (Figures 10-10a) wherein the needle member 30 is advanced out
20 of the catheter body 12 so as to penetrate through the walls of the blood vessels and through any intervening tissue located between the blood vessels.

a. Orientation Structure:

 An orientation structure 36 and tip member 38 are formed integrally
25 with or mounted on the distal end of the catheter body 12, as shown in Figures 1b, 9a and 10a. The orientation cage 36 comprises first 40, second 42 and third 44 strut members which extend longitudinally between the distal end of the catheter body 12 and the proximal end of the distal tip

0 member 38. The first strut member 40 is in direct longitudinal alignment with
a needle outlet opening 46 formed in the side of the catheter body 12
through which the tissue penetrating needle member 30 is advanced. The
second and third strut members 42, 44 are located at equally spaced
5 distances from the first strut member 40, while the distance between the
second and third strut members 42, 44 is less than the distance between
either of those second and third strut members 42, 44 and the first strut
member 40. Such disparate (e.g., unequal) radial spacing of these strut
members 40, 44 and 46 allows the operator to easily identify and distinguish
10 the first strut member 40 from the other two strut members 42, 44 by way of
the image received from an IVUS catheter positioned within the orientation
structure 36. Thus, in this manner, the operator may selectively rotate the
catheter body 12 until the first strut member 40 is directly aligned or
juxtapositioned with the target blood vessel into which the needle member
30 is to be advanced. An illustration of this technique is shown in Figures
15 2 and 3. Figure 2 shows the IVUS image which is obtained when the tissue-
penetrating catheter 10 is properly rotated such that the first strut member
40 is aligned with the target artery A and the needle member 30 will
advance into such target artery A. Figure 3 shows another situation where
the tissue-penetrating catheter 10 is not properly rotated, the first strut
20 member 40 is not aligned with the target artery A and the needle member
30, if advanced, would not enter the target artery A.

It will be appreciated that the disparate distancing of the strut
members 40, 42, 44 is only one possible way of rendering the first strut
member 40 distinguishable from the other two strut members 42, 44.
25 Alternatively, the size or configuration of the first strut member could be
different so as to produce a distinguishable ultrasound image or the material
or surface characteristics of the first strut member 40 could be made
different from the other two strut members 42, 44 such that the first strut

0 member 40 would reflect more or less ultrasound than the other two strut
members 42, 44 thus producing an ultrasound image which is
distinguishable from the images produced by the other two strut members
42, 44. It will also be appreciated that only one strut member may be
5 required to provide a distinguishable element to aid catheter orientation, or
alternatively two strut members may be positioned to delineate a zone within
which the tissue penetrating member may be deployed, or other procedure
conducted.

b. Distal Tip Member:

10 The distal tip member 38 is preferably of blunt tipped configuration
and is formed of smooth soft material (e.g., PEBAX having a durometer
hardness of 35D) so as to minimize trauma to the vasculature as the tissue-
penetrating catheter device 10 is advanced or otherwise manipulated about.
A hollow lumen 39 may extend longitudinally through the tip member 38, in
15 alignment with the first lumen 14 of the catheter body 12, such that an IVUS
catheter or other device such as a guidewire may be advanced from the first
lumen 14, through the orientation structure 36, through the distal tip lumen
38 and distally beyond the catheter device 10. This permits the operator to
use the IVUS catheter to explore areas which are ahead of the distal end of
20 the tissue-penetrating catheter without having to advance the tissue-
penetrating catheter from its then-present position. It also permits the
catheter device 10 to be introduced to the vasculature in the preferred "over
the wire" manner.

c. Tissue Penetrating Needle Member:

25 The tissue penetrating element of the tissue penetrating catheter may
comprise a sharp tipped needle 30 as shown in Figures 7, 8a and 8b. This
needle 30 includes a proximal shaft 30p formed of stainless steel
hypotubing and a resilient, curved distal portion 30d formed of a resilient
material or, more preferably, a material such as NiTi alloy. Preferably a

0 lumen 31 extends longitudinally through the proximal shaft 30p and the curved distal portion 30d.

The particular radius of curvature of the curved distal portion 30d may be an important factor in determining the trajectory and path of the needle tip as it advances and the point at which the needle tip will stop when in its
5 fully advanced position.

The distal tip of the needle member 30 is preferably sharpened so as to easily penetrate through the walls of the blood vessels and any intervening tissue located therebetween. One preferred needle tip configuration is the lancet type bevel 36 shown in Figures 8a and 8b. This
10 lancet type bevel comprises a first radial surface 36a and a second radial surface 36b. Such lancet type tip 36 provides excellent tissue-penetrability and retains its sharpness after multiple retractions into/advancements from the catheter. In practice it may be important for the material surrounding the lumen of the needle, particularly at the distal tip of the needle, and
15 particularly the heel of the needle lumen 36c, to be smooth and free of rough edges or burrs. This allows smooth passage of devices, such as guidewires, through the needle lumen.

In many applications, the controllability and aiming of the needle member 30 may be enhanced by constraining the needle member 30 such that it will remain in a preferred plane or acceptable penetration zone APZ
20 as shown in Figure 12, as it is advanced from the catheter. In embodiments where a curved needle member 30 is advanced out of a side aperture in the catheter (e.g., the embodiment shown in Figure 10a), any rotation of the needle member 30 prior to, during or after advancement of the needle member 30 can cause the distal end of the curved needle member to deviate from or move out of the intended plane or acceptable penetration zone APZ. In this regard, the potential for such unwanted lateral movement of the distal end of the needle member 30 may be prevented or substantially
25

0 limited by providing a stabilizer to prevent or substantially limit the amount
of rotation that the needle member 30 may undergo relative to the catheter
body 12 or to otherwise prevent or deter the needle member from deviating
from a predetermined acceptable acceptable penetration zone APZ (Figure
12) as it is advanced from the catheter 10. In particular, by preventing or
5 limiting the rotation of the needle member 30 within the needle lumen 16,
the curved distal portion of the needle member will be deterred from
deviating from its intended path of advancement as it is extended laterally
from the catheter body 12 (see Figure 10a). Such prevention or limitation
of the potential for rotation or lateral movement of the needle member 30
10 may be accomplished in any suitable way. As described in detail
herebelow, specific apparatus which may be incorporated into the catheter
device 10 to prevent or deter rotation or lateral movement (i.e., "wagging"
or "flopping") of the needle member 30 during or after its advancement from
the catheter body 12, include:

15 a) a curved needle housing 60 which has a curve at its distal end
which mates with the preformed curvature of the needle member 30 to deter
rotation (see Figures 9-10f);

b) engaged surfaces 76, 77 formed on the needle member 30 and
surrounding catheter body 12 to lock or deter rotation of the needle member
20 30, examples of such engaged surfaces 76, 77 including but not necessarily
being limited to i) a tongue in groove or key in key-way arrangement (see
Figures 10d-10d") or ii) an oval to oval arrangement (see Figures 10e-10"),
etc;

c) a steering mechanism for causing the distal portion of the
25 catheter body 12 to curve in the lateral direction in which the needle
member 30 is intended to advance so as to cause the preformed curve of
the needle member 30 to mate with the induced curvature of the catheter
body 12; and,

0 d) a needle guide member 500 which is laterally projectable from the catheter body 12 in the area of the needle outlet aperture 46 to support the needle member 30 and/or to form a lateral extension of the needle lumen 16 so as to create a lateral curve in the needle lumen which mates with the preformed curvature of the needle member 30 (see Figure 10 g).

5 *i. Curved Needle Housing to Deter Rotation/Lateral Deviation of Extended Needle*

10 An example of a preferred curved needle housing 60 mountable within the needle lumen 16 is specifically shown in Figures 1b-1f. Such needle housing 60 comprises a curved, rigid tube. A tubular liner 61 may be disposed within, and may extend from either end of, the curved needle housing 60. Such tubular liner 61 may be formed of a three-layer composite wherein the inner layer is a lubricious polymer material (e.g., polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)), the middle layer is a structural polymer material (e.g., polyimide) and the outer layer is an adhesive material which
15 will bond to the inner surface of the curved needle housing 60 and to the inner surface of the needle lumen 16 at either end of the housing 60 (e.g., polyurethane adhesive). When the needle member 30 is in its retracted position (Figures 9 and 9a), and during advancement, the portion of the needle member which resides within the needle housing 60 will remain in a
20 slightly curved state in conformance to the slightly curved configuration of the needle housing 60. This serves to deter the needle member 30 from rotating relative to the catheter body 12 and/or from undergoing uncontrolled movement (i.e., "flopping") out of the intended acceptable penetration zone APZ, during or after advancement from the catheter. This prevention or
25 deterrence from rotation of the needle member 60 allows the operator to control the orientation of the lancet type or other bevel formed in the needle tip, and also enhances the operator's ability to predict the precise position of the needle tip by eliminating or minimizing the uncontrolled side-to-side

0 movement of the needle. To facilitate the desired positioning and
orientation of the curved needle housing 60 during manufacture of the
catheter 10, a locator member 62 may be attached to the needle housing 60
and incorporated into the catheter body 12 as shown in Figures 1b, 1e, 1f,
1f', 9a and 10a. This locator member 62 comprises a rigid disc 64 which is
5 transversely positionable within the catheter body, having a first bore 66 and
a second bore 68 extending longitudinally therethrough. A chamfered edge
69 is formed about the proximal end of the first bore 66, as shown in Figures
1f and 1f'. During manufacture of the catheter body 12, a rod or mandrel is
inserted through the first bore 66 of the locator and into the first lumen 14
10 of the proximal catheter body portion 12_p and the curved needle housing 60
having a tubular liner 61 extending therethrough and protruding for either
end, are inserted through the second bore 68 and into the second lumen
16 of the proximal catheter body portion 12_p. Thereafter, a distal plastic
tube is advanced about the locator, a tubular polymer skin 73 is applied, and
15 the composite is then heated to form the distal portion of the catheter body
12, as shown.

ii. Frictionally Engaged Surfaces of Needle Member and Catheter to
Deter Rotation/Lateral Deviation of Extended Needle:

As an alternative to, or in addition to, the use of the curved needle
20 housing 60 as a means for preventing rotation of the needle member 30 and
for providing more accurate and stable deployment of the needle member
30, the needle member 30 and at least a portion of the second lumen 14
may incorporate engaged surfaces which are frictionally engaged to one
another so as to prevent or deter rotation of the needle member 30 within
25 the needle lumen 16. Examples of such engaged surfaces 76, 77 include
a key/key-way design shown in Figures 10d-10d" or an oval/oval design
such as that depicted in Figures 10e-10e".

0 With specific reference to the showings of Figures 10d-10d", the
key/keyway method of preventing independent rotation of the needle
member 30 may be effected by use of a key-way element 76 in combination
with a keyed needle 30_{key}. The key-way element 76 comprises a tubular
5 member which has a key-way shaped lumen 77 with a key portion 79
extending longitudinally therethrough. The keyed needle 30_{key} comprises a
hollow needle of the type described hereabove and shown in Figures 7-8b
having a longitudinally extending rail or key member 33 formed upon a
segment thereof. The key member 33 may be formed as a portion of the
10 needle wall or may alternatively comprise a separate member, such as a
section of hypotube, affixed to the side of the needle wall. The keyed
needle 30_{key} is sized and configured to be advanced and retracted through
the lumen 77 of the key-way housing, with the key member 31 being
disposed within the key portion 79 of the lumen 77. In this manner the
15 keyed needle member 30_{key} is longitudinally advanceable and retractable,
but can not be rotated within the lumen 77 due to the engagement of the
needle key member 31 with the key portion 79 of the lumen 77. The key-
way element 76 is provided with a stabilizer 78 which is substantially the
same as the needle housing stabilizer 62 described above and shown in
20 Figures 1e-1f, and the key-way element 76/stabilizer 78 assembly may be
installed and mounted within the catheter body at the time of manufacture
in the same manner as described hereabove with respect to the needle
housing 60/stabilizer 62 assembly shown in Figures 1e-1f. This key-way
25 element 76/stabilizer 78 assembly is typically installed and mounted in the
catheter body 12 proximal to the location of the needle housing 60/locator
62 assembly shown in Figures 1e-1f but near enough to the distal end of
the catheter device 10 to prevent the portion of the needle adjacent its distal
end from undergoing untoward rotation within the catheter body 12 during
the catheter insertion procedure.

0 With specific reference to the oval/oval arrangement shown in
Figures 10e-10e", the device 10 may incorporate an oval shaped needle
housing 76_{alt} in combination with an oval shaped needle 30_{ov}. The oval
shaped needle housing 76_{alt} comprises a tubular member positioned within
the needle lumen 16 and having an oval shaped lumen 77_{alt} extending
5 longitudinally therethrough. The oval shaped needle 30_{ov} comprises a
hollow needle of the type described hereabove and shown in Figures 7-8b
having an oval, ovoid or other non-round cross-sectional configuration. The
oval shaped needle 30_{ov} is sized and configured to be advanced and
retracted through the lumen 77_{alt} of the oval shaped needle housing 76_{alt},
10 but can not be rotated within the lumen 77_{alt} due to the engagement of the
oval shaped needle member 30_{ov} with the oval shaped wall of the housing
lumen 77_{alt}. The oval shaped needle housing 76_{alt} is provided with a locator
78 which is substantially the same as the needle housing locator 62
described above and shown in Figures 1e-1f, and the oval shaped needle
15 housing 76_{alt}/locator 78 assembly may be installed and mounted within the
catheter body 12 at the time of manufacture, in the same manner as
described hereabove with respect to the needle housing 60/locator 62
assembly shown in Figures 1e-1f. This oval shaped needle housing
76_{alt}/locator 78 assembly will typically be installed and mounted in the
20 catheter body 12 proximal to the location of the needle housing 60/locator
62 assembly shown in Figures 1e-1f, but near enough to the distal end of
the catheter device 10 to prevent the portion of the needle 30_{ov} adjacent its
distal end from undergoing untoward rotation within the catheter body 12
during the catheter insertion procedure.

25 *iii. Laterally Deployable Needle Guide to Deter Rotation/Lateral
Deviation of Extended Needle:*

Figures 10g and 10g' show an example of a needle guide member
500 which may be caused to project or extend laterally from the catheter

0 body 12 in the area of the needle outlet aperture 46 to stabilize and guide
the advancing needle member, thereby deterring lateral or side-to-side
movement of the needle member 30 and further constraining the path which
will be followed by the advancing needle. The deployment of such needle
5 guide member 500 may also give rise to a lateral extension of the needle
lumen 16 which mates with the preformed curve of the needle member 30
to prevent rotation of the needle member 30 in essentially the same manner
as the curved needle housing 60 described above.

10 The particular laterally deployable guide member 500 shown in
Figures 10g and 10g' is an inflatable annular member that is connected to
an inflation fluid lumen 502 that extends through the catheter body 12 to
permit inflation fluid to be infused and withdrawn from the inflatable guide
member 500. When deflated (Figure 10g) the guide member 500 will nest
within a depression or cut out region in the catheter's outer wall thereby
15 assuming a configuration that is substantially flush with the outer surface
504 of the catheter body 12. When inflated (Figure 10g') the guide member
500 will form an annular support collar around the tissue penetrating
member 30 as it advances laterally from the catheter body. The surface(s)
of the inflatable guide member 500 that may be brushed against or
20 contacted by the tip of the tissue penetrating member as it advances out of
the outlet opening 46 may be armored or coated with a metal foil or other
material that will resist puncture by the tip of the tissue penetrating member
30.

iv. Steerable Catheter Body to Deter Rotation/Lateral Deviation of
the Extended Needle Member:

25 The catheter body 12 may be provided with a mechanism for inducing
a curve or bend in the region of the catheter body 12 proximal to the needle
outlet aperture 46 to cause the portion of the needle lumen 16 proximal to
the outlet aperture 46 to assume a curvature which mates with the curved

0 shape to which the needle member 30 is biased, thereby deterring rotation
of the needle member 30 within the catheter in the same manner described
above with respect to the curved needle housing 60. The mechanism by
which the catheter body 16 may be induced to curve may be any suitable
catheter steering apparatus known in the art, such as an internal pull wire
5 or spine member formed on shape memory alloy which is alternately
transitionable between a straight configuration and a curved configuration.

v. Rotational Locking of Needle Member When Retracted to Maintain
Correct Orientation and Enhance Torque Transfer:

10 It is desirable for the proximal shaft of the tissue-penetrating catheter
10 to be endowed with enough structural integrity to transmit torque to the
distal end of the catheter, as necessary for precise rotational orientation and
aiming of the catheter device 10 before advancement of the needle member
30 therefrom. Also, in many applications, it is desirable for the needle
member 30 to be maintained in a predetermined rotational orientation within
15 the catheter body 12 *prior to* advancement of the needle member 30 from
the catheter 10 (i.e., while the needle member 30 is still in its retracted
state). In many applications, it is also desirable to minimize the diameter of
the catheter body 12 to allow it to pass through small blood vessel lumens.
Each of these three (3) objectives may be achieved by rotational locking of
20 the needle member 30 within the catheter body prior to its advancement
from the catheter, as such rotational locking i) prevents unwanted needle
rotation, ii) enhances the efficiency of torque transfer to the distal end of the
catheter body 12 and thereby the needle, and iii) does not add any mass or
additional diameter to the catheter body 12.

25 Figures 10f-10f' show a needle locking collar assembly 520, which
comprises an enlarged region 522 formed within the needle lumen 16,
wherein a first locking collar member 524 and second locking collar member
526 are located. The first locking collar member 524 is stationarily affixed

0 to the catheter body 12 and has cavities or grooves 528 formed in the distal
surface thereof and a central aperture through which the needle member
30_{col} may be advanced and retracted. The second locking collar member
526 is affixed to the needle member 30_{col} and has projections 530 extending
5 from the proximal surface thereof. The projections 530 are sized, located
and configured to be received within the grooves 528 of the first collar
member 524 when the needle member 30_{col} is in its retracted position,
thereby frictionally locking the needle member 30_{col} to prevent its rotation
relative to the catheter body 12. However, when the needle member 30_{col}
10 is in its extended position, the projections 530 will not be inserted within the
grooves 528, and the collar assembly 520 will not prevent the needle
member 30_{col} from rotating within the catheter body 12. It will be
appreciated that these stabilizing devices may be employed at various
points along the length of the catheter body, including the proximal, medial,
distal or needle housing portion.

15 **d. Handpiece/Needle Controller:**

A handpiece/needle controller 15 is mounted on the proximal end of
the Catheter body 12, and is useable to control the rotational orientation of
the catheter body 12 and the advancement/retraction of the needle member
30.

20 Also this handpiece/needle controller 15 has a proximal port 27
formed on its proximal end through which a small guidewire (e.g., a 0.0010-
0.016 inch diameter wire) may be advanced through the lumen 31 of the
needle member 30, a first side port 21 through which a large guidewire (e.g.,
a 0.030-0.040 inch diameter wire) may be advanced through the first lumen
25 14 when that first lumen 14 is not occupied by an IVUS catheter, and a
second side port 23 through which a flush solution may be infused into the
catheter's second lumen 16 outside of the needle member 30 disposed
therein.

e. Catheter Body:

The catheter body 12 includes a relatively stiff proximal section 12a, a medial section 12b, and a distal section 12c shown in Figs 1A and 1B. The catheter body exhibits varying flexibility and torque strength along its length, and may incorporate reinforcement members such as a reinforcement braid member which imparts structural integrity as well as enhancing the ability of the catheter body to transmit torque. A hand piece 15 is attached to the proximal end of the proximal section 12a, as shown. In the preferred embodiment the hand piece 15 and proximal section 12a are approximately 115cm in length. The medial section extends approximately 25cm terminating approximately 2cm from the distal section 12c. The proximal and medial sections of the catheter contain a braided component 50 as shown in Figs. 1B' and 1B'', encased in a polymer material (e.g. Pebax, nylon, polyurethane, polyester or PVC) extruded to form the inner lumen 50b and out jacket 50a of catheter body 12.

It has been determined that material expansion and changes in the physical properties of certain materials may occur after the catheter 10 is inserted into the patient's body and warmed from room temperature to body temperature. This material expansion and changes in the physical properties of certain materials can result in variation in the tolerances and sizing of the catheter 10 (e.g. elongation or shrinking) and can thus give rise to an unwanted modification of the position of the tissue penetrating member 30. This could, in at least some cases, interfere with the precise aiming and advancement of the tissue penetrating member as desired. Fig. 1B'' illustrates the braid angle A and pick count PC of the catheter braid 50. The "pick count" PC of the braid is, as is well known in the art, a function of the braid angle A (i.e., the greater the braid angle the more picks per inch).

0 Also, the torque transmission and stiffness of the braided section 50
is a function of the braid angle (i.e., a braid angle of 90 degrees provides
maximum torque transfer and a braid angle of 0 degrees provides minimum
torque transfer). Catheters used in the present invention that have exhibited
5 this phenomenon have braid angles A that result in a pick count of 50 – 70
picks per inch. However, applicant has determined that by decreasing the
braid angle A of the braid 50 within the proximal and medial sections of the
catheter 10 to result in a pick count of 20 – 30 picks per inch, it is possible
10 to minimize or eliminate the unwanted longitudinal expansion of the catheter
10 and/or its components, while retaining sufficient torque transmission and
acceptable stiffness to accomplish the procedures for which the catheter 10
is intended (examples of such procedures are illustrated in Figures 13a-14m
herebelow). This variation in braid angle or picks per inch may vary
depending on the material of construction of the catheter and/or the braid
fiber, and the diameter of the catheter body.

15 **II. The Coronary Sinus Guide Component of the Catheter System:**

 Figures 11-11c show a preferred coronary sinus guide
catheter/introducer assembly 200, which comprises a) a flexible coronary
sinus guide catheter 203 that has a curved distal portion 204, a proximal
20 assembly 214 mounted on the proximal end of the flexible catheter body
203, and a hollow lumen 202 extending longitudinally therethrough and b)
an introducer 213 that has a tapered, soft distal portion 213d that protrudes
out of and beyond the distal end DE of the guide catheter 203 and a
guidewire lumen 215 that extends longitudinally through the introducer 213
25 to permit the guide catheter/introducer assembly to be advanced over a
guidewire GW as described more fully herebelow in connection with a
preferred method of using the catheter system 10.

0 A reinforcement braid 212, such as a wire braid, is formed within a portion of the catheter body 203 but terminates approximately 2 to 5 centimeters from the distal end DE. In this manner, the reinforcement braid 212 will prevent kinking and improve torque strength of the proximal portion of the catheter body 203, and the curved portion thereof, up to a location at
5 about 2 to 5 centimeters from its distal end DE.

The proximal assembly comprises a rigid body 248 through which the lumen 202 extends, and upon which a proximal port 250 is formed to permit the guide introducer 213, subselective sheath 100 (Figures 4-6), tissue-penetrating catheter device 10 (Figures 1 and 9-10), or other catheters,
10 guidewires and/or devices (e.g., blocker delivery catheter, channel connector delivery catheter, channel enlarging device, etc...) to be inserted through the lumen 202 of the coronary sinus guide catheter 200. A hemostatic valve 244, such as a cross-cut resilient membrane, a slit-cut resilient membrane, or a flapper valve) is positioned transversely within the
15 lumen 202 of the proximal assembly 214 to prevent blood from backflowing out of the proximal port 250 when no catheter or other device is inserted therethrough and to prevent or minimize the amount of blood which may leak out of the proximal port 250 when a catheter or other device is inserted therethrough. A side port 246 is formed on the proximal assembly 214 to
20 permit preparation fluid to be infused or injected into or through the lumen 202. A plurality of side apertures 210 are formed in the wall of the catheter body 203 near its distal end to allow pressure relief in the event that a radiographic contrast medium or other fluid is injected.

III. The Subselective Sheath Component of the Catheter System

25 As shown in Figures 4-6, a preferred subselective sheath 100 of the present invention comprises a flexible sheath body 102 having a proximal hub 104 and a lumen 106 extending longitudinally therethrough. A reinforcement braid 108 is formed within the catheter body 102 to prevent

0 kinking and improve torque strength. Such reinforcement braid terminates
distally at 0.1-1.0 centimeter from the distal end of the catheter body 102.
A gradual taper 110 is formed about the distal end of the sheath body's
outer surface to such that the sheath 100 will taper to a flush transition with
the distally protruding portion 111d of its introducer 111. The lumen 202 has
5 an inner diameter D1 which is substantially the same as the outer diameter
of the introducer 111 that is initially inserted through the lumen 106. The
introducer 111 has a guidewire lumen 109 that extends longitudinally
therethrough to permit the subselective sheath/introducer assembly to be
advanced over a previously inserted guidewire GW (e.g., a 0.035 inch
10 guidewire). The outer diameter of the sheath 100 is sized to be advanced
and retracted through the lumen 202 of the coronary sinus guide catheter
200 (Figures 11-11b). The preferred method of using this subselective
sheath 100 and introducer 111 are described in detail herebelow with
respect to the methods of the present invention.

15 ***B. Preferred Methods for Using the Catheter System:***

The present invention also includes methods for using this catheter
system described hereabove (or any other catheter system or devices that
may be suitable to carry out the desired purpose), in conjunction with other
apparatus such as guidewires, channel enlarging catheters/devices, channel
20 connecting catheters/devices and vessel blocking catheters/devices to
perform percutaneous, *in situ* coronary arterio-venous bypass procedures
by way of a vein-to-artery approach, such method being fully described
herebelow and shown in step-by-step fashion in Figures 13a-13x and 14a-
14m.

25 The catheter system described hereabove and shown in Figures 1-
11b is useable in conjunction with a fluoroscope, an IVUS imaging catheter,
a coronary sinus access catheter (e.g., a standard angiographic catheter),
a channel-enlarging catheter device, lumen-blocking device(s), a 0.035 inch

0 diameter guidewire, and one or more 0.014 inch diameter guidewire(s) to
perform various revascularization procedures including, as described in
detail herebelow, a Percutaneous In Situ Coronary Artery Bypass (PICAB)
procedure as well as a Percutaneous In Situ Coronary Venous
5 Arterialization (PICVA) procedure. It will be appreciated that, in addition to
the particular PICAB and PICVA examples described in detail herebelow,
the catheter system of the present invention may also be useable to perform
various other procedures such as directed drug delivery procedures of the
type described in co-pending United States Patent Application SN
10 09/048,147 and other revascularization procedures.

I. A Preferred Method for Performing the PICAB Procedure:

Figures 13a-13x show, in step-by-step fashion, an example of a
PICAB procedure wherein the catheter system 10 of the present invention
is used for the purpose of bypassing a blockage located in the proximal
15 portion of the Anterior Descending Coronary Artery (LAD) of a human
patient. In this PICAB procedure, a coronary sinus access catheter (e.g.,
a standard angiographic catheter such as the modified Simmons-type
angiographic catheter available from Cook Cardiology, Bloomington,
Indiana) is initially inserted through a femoral vein or external jugular vein
20 approach, using standard percutaneous catheter insertion technique. After
such initial percutaneous catheter insertion has been accomplished, the
PICAB procedure proceeds as follows:

First Step: Coronary Sinus Access / Introduction of First Guidewire:

25 As shown in Figure 13a, an arterial blockage AB to be bypassed is
located in the left anterior descending coronary artery (LAD). The coronary
sinus access catheter 500 is advanced into the coronary sinus CS, as
shown in Figure 13b, to assist in the placement of a 0.035 inch diameter
guidewire GW₁ into the great cardiac vein (GCV) and anterior interventricular

0 vein (AIV). This guidewire GW₁ can be pre-loaded in the lumen of the coronary sinus access catheter 500 or can be advanced through the lumen of the coronary sinus access catheter 500 after it has been positioned in the coronary sinus, as a separate step. Thereafter, the coronary sinus access catheter 500 is removed, leaving the 0.035 inch guidewire GW₁ in place.

5 Second Step: Introduction of Coronary Sinus Guide Catheter / AIV Access:

 As shown in Figure 13c-13d, the coronary sinus guide catheter 200 with introducer sheath 100 disposed within or through its lumen 202, is advanced over the 0.035 inch guidewire GW₁ until the tip of the coronary sinus guide catheter 200 is past the "mouth" of the coronary sinus. The introducer sheath 100 is then removed, leaving the coronary sinus guide catheter 200 in place, in the manner shown in Figure 13d.

Third Step: Introduction & Aiming of Tissue-penetrating Catheter:

15 As shown in Figure 13e, the tissue-penetrating catheter 10 is then inserted over the pre-positioned 0.035 inch guidewire GW₁, through the lumen 202 of the coronary sinus guide catheter 200, and is advanced using fluoroscopy to a position distal to the arterial blockage AB being bypassed. The 0.035 inch guidewire GW₁ is then extracted and removed from the first lumen 14 of the tissue-penetrating catheter 10 and an IVUS imaging catheter (not shown) is then advanced through that first lumen 14 until the IVUS transducer resides within the hollow interior space of the orientation structure 36. The IVUS catheter is then used to receive a 360 degree ultrasound image from a vantage point within the interior space of the orientation structure 36. Such image enables the operator to see both the resident vessel (the AIV) and the target vessel (the LAD), as well as the reflections or artifacts from the three strut members 40, 42 & 44 of the orientation structure 36. Because of the disparate distancing between the strut members 40, 42 & 44, the reflections or artifacts produced by the strut

members will form a generally "Y" shaped image as illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 of this patent application. The reflection 40_{Ref} produced by the first strut member 40 is clearly distinguishable from the reflections 42_{Ref} , 44_{Ref} produced by the second and third strut members 42, 43, and provides an indication of the particular direction in which the needle member 30 will travel when advanced from the needle outlet opening 46 in the side of the catheter body 12. Thus, if the first strut member reflection 40_{Ref} observed on the IVUS image *does not* extend directly toward or into the lumen of the LAD (as illustrated in Figure 3), the operator will rotate the tissue-penetrating catheter 10 until such first strut member reflection 40_{Ref} observed on the IVUS image *does* extend directly toward or into the lumen of the LAD (as illustrated in Figure 2). This will ensure that the needle member 30 is properly aimed to enter the LAD when advanced.

Fourth Step: Formation of Initial Arterio-Venous Penetration Tract Distal to Blockage:

As shown in Figure 13f-13h, the tissue penetrating needle member 30 is then advanced in the distal direction to its extended position such that it punctures through the wall of the resident vessel (the AIV), through any tissue which may exist between the resident vessel (the AIV) and the target vessel (the LAD) and into the lumen of the target vessel (the LAD) at a location downstream of the arterial blockage AB. This maneuver results in the formation of an initial arterio-venous penetration tract PT. With the needle member 30 in its extended position and its distal tip in the lumen of the target vessel (the LAD), a 0.014 inch diameter guidewire GW_2 is inserted through the proximal port 27 of the tissue-penetrating catheter handpiece/needle controller 15 and advanced through the lumen 31 of the needle member 30 into the target vessel (the LAD), as shown in Figure 14h. After the 0.014 inch diameter guidewire GW_2 has been introduced into the target vessel (the LAD) the needle member 30 is withdrawn to its retracted

0 position, leaving the 0.014 inch diameter guidewire GW₂ extending through
the initially formed interstitial passageway into the target vessel (the LAD)
as shown in Figure 14h. After the needle member 30 is withdrawn to its
retracted position, the tissue-penetrating catheter 10 is withdrawn and
5 removed, leaving the 0.014 inch guidewire in place (i.e., extending through
the newly formed arterio-venous penetration tract PT).

*Fifth Step: Deployment of Blocker into Vein Lumen Distal to
Blockage:*

As shown in Figures 13 i-k, the subselective sheath 100 with its
introducer 111 inserted therethrough is advanced through the coronary
10 sinus guide 200 over the large guide wire GW₁. Thereafter, the introducer
111 and guidewire GW₁ are removed and one or more embolic blocker
members BM are introduced into the proximal end of the subselective
sheath, pushed through the lumen of the subselective sheath 100 using a
pusher rod (not shown) and expelled into the lumen of the coronary vein
15 (the AIV) where such embolic blocker(s) expand and engage the wall of the
vein at that location. Examples of such blocker members BM and their
methods of implantation are described in United States Patent Application
Serial No. 09/117,156. The 0.035 inch diameter guidewire GW₁ is then
20 removed, and an embolic blocker member BM is inserted into the proximal
end of the subselective sheath. A push rod is then advanced through the
lumen of the subselective sheath to push the embolic blocker member BM
out of the distal end of the subselective sheath and into its desired position
within the lumen of the coronary vein (the AIV). It is to be noted that this
25 blocker deployment step may be performed at this point in the procedure,
or alternatively may be delayed until a later time in the procedure. After the
distal blocker member BM has been implanted at its desired location, the
0.035 inch diameter guidewire GW₁ is reinserted through the subselective

0 sheath 100 and the subselective sheath 100 is then withdrawn and removed as shown in Figure 13k.

Sixth Step: Formation of Initial Arterio-Venous Penetration Tract Proximal to Blockage:

5 As shown in Figures 13l-13n, the tissue-penetrating catheter 10 is then once again advanced over the 0.035 inch diameter guidewire GW₁, under fluoroscopy, to a position that is proximal to the previously-formed distal penetration tract PT. The above-described fourth step is then repeated to form another initial arterio-venous penetration tract PT proximal to the blockage, and to pass a second 0.014 inch guidewire GW₃ through that second arterio-venous penetration tract PT. The tissue-penetrating catheter 10 is then withdrawn and removed, leaving both 0.014 inch guidewires GW₁ and GW₃ in place, in the manner shown in Figure 13n.

Seventh Step: Enlargement of Distal Penetration Tract to Form Arterio-Venous Bloodflow Passageway:

15 As shown in Figure 13o, the subselective sheath 100 and its introducer 111 are advanced through the guide catheter 203, over the second guidewire GW₂ to a location where the distal end of the subselective sheath 100 is within the AIV immediately adjacent the distal penetration tract PT. Thereafter, the introducer 111 is withdrawn and a channel enlarging catheter device CEC, of the type described in United States Patent Application 09/056,589, is advanced over the 0.014 inch guidewire GW₂, which extends through the distal arterio-venous penetration tract PT, thereby the dilating or enlarging that tract to form an arterio-venous bloodflow passageway PW. This step of the procedure provides control over the diameter or size of the arterio-venous bloodflow passageways PW and helps to ensure that the passageways PW will remain patent and functional following completion of the procedure. After such enlargement of the penetration tract to form the intended passageway PW, the channel

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0 enlarging catheter device CEC is withdrawn and removed along with the subselective sheath 100, leaving both 0.014 inch guidewires GW₁ and GW₃ in place, in the manner shown in Figure 13p.

Eighth Step: Placement of Connector Device in Distal Arterio-Venous Bloodflow Passageway:

5 As an optional step, a connection device may be deployed in the passageway PW. As shown in Figures 13q-13s, the subselective sheath 100 and its introducer 111 are then advanced over the distal channel guidewire GW₂ to a position where the distal end of the subselective sheath 100 is in the AIV immediately adjacent the distal bloodflow passageway PW. Thereafter, the introducer 111 is removed and a connector device delivery catheter CDC, of the type described in United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/970,694, is advanced over through the subselective sheath 100 and over the 0.014 inch guidewire GW₂ which extends through the distal arterio-venous passageway PW, to implant a connector device CD within that passageway PW. The connector delivery catheter device CDC is then removed, along with the subselective sheath 100 and the distal 0.014 inch guidewire GW₂ that had extended through the distal arterio-venous passageway PW, leaving the distal connector device CD in place within the distal arterio-venous passageway PW in the manner shown in Figure 13s.

Ninth Step: Enlargement of Proximal Penetration Tract to form the Proximal Arterio-Venous Bloodflow Passageway:

25 As shown in Figures 13t-13u, the subselective sheath 100 and its introducer 111 are then advanced over the distal channel guidewire GW₂ to a position where the distal end of the subselective sheath 100 is in the AIV immediately adjacent the distal bloodflow passageway PW. Thereafter, the introducer 111 is removed and a and a channel enlarging catheter device CEC, of the type described in United States Patent

0 Application 09/056,589, is advanced over the 0.014 inch guidewire GW₃
that extends through the proximal arterio-venous penetration tract PT,
thereby the dilating or enlarging that tract to form a proximal arterio-venous
bloodflow passageway PW. This step of the procedure provides control
5 over the diameter or size of the arterio-venous bloodflow passageways PW
and helps to ensure that the passageways PW will remain patent and
functional following completion of the procedure. After such enlargement
of the proximal penetration tract to form the intended passageway PW, the
channel enlarging catheter device CEC is withdrawn and removed leaving
10 the subselective sheath 100 and proximal 0.014 inch guidewire GW₃ in
place, as shown in Figure 13u.

Tenth Step: Placement of Connector Device in Proximal Arterio-Venous Passageway:

As an optional step, a connection device may be deployed in the
passageway PW. As shown in Figures 13v , a connector device delivery
15 catheter CDC, of the type described in United States Patent Application
Serial No. 08/970,694, is then advanced through the subselective sheath
100 and over the 0.014 inch guidewire GW₃ which extends through the
proximal arterio-venous passageway PW, to implant a connector device CD
within that passageway PW. The connector delivery catheter device is then
20 removed, and the subselective sheath 100 and 0.014 inch guidewire GW₃
are then retracted to a position within the Great Cardiac Vein GCV, proximal
to the proximal passageway PW, as shown in Figure 13w, leaving the
proximal connector device CD in place within the proximal arterio-venous
passageway.

25 Eleventh Step: Deployment of Blocker into Vein Lumen Proximal to
Blockage:

As shown in Figure 13w, the above-described fifth step is then
repeated to implant a second blocker device BD within the lumen of the

0 Great Cardiac Vein (GCV), proximal to the proximal arterio-venous
passageway PW. This completes the procedure, and results in the flow of
arterial blood from the Circumflex Artery (CX), through the proximal arterio-
venous passageway PW, through the Great Cardiac Vein GCV and Anterior
5 Interventricular Vein in the retrograde direction, through the distal arterio-
venous passageway PW, and into the Left Anterior Descending coronary
artery LAD, downstream of the blockage AB, as illustrated by the flow-
indicating arrows on Figure 13x.

II. A Preferred Method for Performing the PICVA Procedure:

10 Figures 14a-14m show, in step-by-step fashion, an example of a
PICVA procedure wherein the catheter system 10 of the present invention
is used for the purpose causing arterial blood to be rerouted into the Anterior
Interventricular Vein and caused to subsequently flow through the AIV in
retrograde fashion (i.e., in a direction opposite normal venous return)
thereby bypassing an extensive blockage within the patient's Anterior
15 Descending Coronary Artery (LAD) and perfusing the region of myocardium
that had been rendered ischemic due to the extensive blockage in the LAD.
In this PIVA procedure, a coronary sinus access catheter (e.g., a standard
angiographic catheter such as the modified Simmons-type angiographic
catheter available from Cook Cardiology, Bloomington, Indiana) is initially
20 inserted through a femoral vein or external jugular vein approach, using
standard percutaneous catheter insertion technique. After such initial
percutaneous catheter insertion has been accomplished, the PICAB
procedure proceeds as follows:

First Step: Coronary Sinus Access / Introduction of First Guidewire:

25 As shown in Figure 14a, an extensive arterial blockage AB extends
though substantially the entire length of the left anterior descending
coronary artery (LAD), thereby rendering this patient an unlikely candidate
for the above-described PICAB procedure because no patent distal portion

0 of the LAD remains available to receive the bypass arterial bloodflow. It is
appreciated that in cases where the disease AB does not extend into the
proximal portion of the LAD, a connection may be established between the
LAD and the AIV proximal to the blockage, but there would be no
opportunity to make a distal connection as required by the PICAB
5 procedure. As shown in Figure 14b, a coronary sinus access catheter 500
is advanced into the coronary sinus CS to assist in the placement of a 0.035
inch diameter guidewire GW₁ into the great cardiac vein (GCV). This
guidewire GW₁ can be pre-loaded in the lumen of the coronary sinus
access catheter 500 or can be advanced through the lumen of the coronary
10 sinus access catheter 500 after it has been positioned in the coronary sinus,
as a separate step. Thereafter, the coronary sinus access catheter 500 is
removed, leaving the 0.035 inch guidewire GW₁ in place.

Second Step: Introduction of Coronary Sinus Guide Catheter / AIV
Access:

15 As shown in Figure 14c-14d, the coronary sinus guide catheter 200
with introducer sheath 100 disposed within or through its lumen 202, is
advanced over the 0.035 inch guidewire GW₁ until the tip of the coronary
sinus guide catheter 200 is past the "mouth" of the coronary sinus. The
introducer sheath 100 is then removed, leaving the coronary sinus guide
20 catheter 200 in place, in the manner shown in Figure 14d.

Third Step: Introduction & Aiming of Tissue-penetrating Catheter:

25 As shown in Figure 14e, the tissue-penetrating catheter 10 is then
inserted over the pre-positioned 0.035 inch guidewire GW₁, through the
lumen 202 of the coronary sinus guide catheter 200, and is advanced using
fluoroscopy to a position proximal to the arterial blockage AB being
bypassed. The 0.035 inch guidewire GW₁ is then extracted and removed
from the first lumen 14 of the tissue-penetrating catheter 10 and an IVUS
imaging catheter (not shown) is then advanced through that first lumen 14

0 until the IVUS transducer resides within the imaging catheter-receiving
space of the orientation structure 36. The IVUS catheter is then used to
receive a 360 degree ultrasound image from a vantage point within the
interior space of the orientation structure 36. Such image enables the
operator to see both the resident vessel (the GCV) and the target vessel
5 (the CX), as well as the reflections or artifacts from the three strut members
40, 42 & 44 of the orientation structure 36. Because of the disparate
distancing between the strut members 40, 42 & 44, the reflections or artifacts
produced by the strut members will form a generally "Y" shaped image as
illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 of this patent application. The reflection 40_{Ref}
10 produced by the first strut member 40 is clearly distinguishable from the
reflections 42_{Ref}, 44_{Ref} produced by the second and third strut members 42,
43, and provides an indication of the particular direction in which the needle
member 30 will travel when advanced from the needle outlet opening 46 in
the side of the catheter body 12. Thus, if the first strut member reflection
15 40_{Ref} observed on the IVUS image *does not* extend directly toward or into
the lumen of the CX (as illustrated in Figure 3), the operator will rotate the
tissue-penetrating catheter 10 until such first strut member reflection 40_{Ref}
observed on the IVUS image *does* extend directly toward or into the lumen
of the CX (as illustrated in Figure 2). This will ensure that the needle
20 member 30 is properly aimed to enter the CX when advanced.

*Fourth Step: Formation of Initial Arterio-Venous Penetration Tract
Distal to Blockage:*

25 As shown in Figure 14f-14h, the tissue penetrating needle member
30 is then advanced in the distal direction to its extended position such that
it punctures through the wall of the resident vessel (the GCV), through any
tissue which may exist between the resident vessel (the GCV) and the
target vessel (the CX) and into the lumen of the target vessel (the CX) at a
location downstream of the arterial blockage AB. This maneuver results in

0 the formation of an initial arterio-venous penetration tract PT. With the
needle member 30 in its extended position and its distal tip in the lumen of
the target vessel (the CX), a 0.014 inch diameter guidewire GW₂ is inserted
through the proximal port 27 of the tissue-penetrating catheter
handpiece/needle controller 15 and advanced through the lumen 31 of the
5 needle member 30 into the target vessel (the CX), as shown in Figure 14h.
After the 0.014 inch diameter guidewire GW₂ has been introduced into the
target vessel (the LAD) the needle member 30 is withdrawn to its retracted
position, leaving the 0.014 inch diameter guidewire GW₂ extending through
the initially formed interstitial passageway into the target vessel (the CX) as
10 shown in Figure 14h. Thereafter, the needle member 30 is withdrawn to its
retracted position and the tissue-penetrating catheter 10 is withdrawn and
removed, leaving the 0.014 inch guidewire in place (i.e., extending through
the newly formed arterio-venous penetration tract PT), as shown in Figure
14h.

15 *Fifth Step: Enlargement of Penetration Tract to Form Arterio-Venous
Bloodflow Passageway:*

As shown in Figure 14i, the subselective sheath 100 and its
introducer 111 are advanced through the guide catheter 203, over the
second guidewire GW₂ to a location where the distal end of the
subselective sheath 100 is within the AIV immediately adjacent the distal
20 penetration tract PT. Thereafter, the introducer 111 is withdrawn and a
channel enlarging catheter device CEC, of the type described in United
States Patent Application 09/056,589, is advanced over the 0.014 inch
guidewire GW₂ which extends through the arterio-venous penetration tract
PT, thereby the dilating or enlarging that tract to form an arterio-venous
25 bloodflow passageway PW. This step of the procedure provides control
over the diameter or size of the arterio-venous bloodflow passageways PW
and helps to ensure that the passageways PW will remain patent and

0 functional following completion of the procedure. After such enlargement of the penetration tract to form the intended passageway PW, the channel enlarging catheter device CEC is withdrawn and removed, leaving the subselective sheath 100 and second guidewire GW₂ in place.

5 Sixth Step: Placement of Connector Device in Arterio-Venous Bloodflow Passageway:

It may be desirable, in an optional step as shown in Figures 14j-14k, to place a connector device within the passageway PW. A connector device delivery catheter CDC, of the type described in United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/970,694, is advanced over through the subselective sheath 100 and over the 0.014 inch guidewire GW₂ which extends through the arterio-venous passageway PW, to implant a connector device CD within that passageway PW. The connector delivery catheter device CDC is then removed, and the subselective sheath 100 and the 0.014 inch guidewire GW₂ that had extended through the distal arterio-venous passageway PW are then retracted to a position proximal to the passageway PW..

15 Seventh Step: Deployment of Blocker into Vein Lumen Proximal to Blockage:

As shown in Figures 14l-14m, the guidewire GW₂ is then removed and one or more embolic blocker members BM are introduced into the proximal end of the subselective sheath 100, pushed through the lumen of the subselective sheath 100 using a pusher rod (not shown) and expelled into the lumen of the Great Cardiac Vein (GCV) proximal to the bloodflow passageway PW where such embolic blocker(s) expand and engage the wall of the vein to cause substantial occlusion and blockage of bloodflow through the vein at that location. Examples of such blocker members BM and their methods of implantation are described in United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/117,516. The 0.035 inch diameter guidewire GW₁

0 is then removed, and an embolic blocker member BM is inserted into the proximal end of the subselective sheath. A push rod is then advanced through the lumen of the blocker delivery catheter to push the embolic blocker member BM out of the distal end of the subselective sheath and into its desired position within the lumen of the coronary vein (the GCV). It is to be noted that this blocker deployment step may be performed at this point in the procedure, or alternatively may be delayed until a later time in the procedure. This completes the procedure, and results in the flow of arterial blood from the Circumflex Artery (CX), through the arterio-venous passageway PW, through the Great Cardiac Vein GCV and Anterior Interventricular Vein in the retrograde direction so as to perfuse the myocardium that has been rendered ischemic due to the blockage of the Left Anterior Descending coronary artery (LAD) as illustrated by the flow indicating arrows on Figure 14m.

15 It is to be understood and appreciated that the invention has been described herein with reference to certain presently preferred embodiments and examples only, and no effort has been made to exhaustively describe all possible embodiments and examples of the invention. Indeed, as those skilled in the art will appreciate, various additions, deletions, modifications and variations may be made to the particular embodiments and examples described hereabove without departing from the intended spirit and scope of the invention. For example, where this patent application has listed the steps of a method or procedure in a specific order, it may be possible (or even expedient in certain circumstances) to change the order in which some steps are performed, and it is intended that the particular steps of the method or procedure claims set forth herebelow not be construed as being order-specific unless such order specificity is expressly stated in the claim. Another example is that, although the specific procedures described in detail in this application involve penetrating through tissue located within an

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"acceptable penetration zone," such acceptable penetration zone need not be occupied by tissue but rather such acceptable penetration zone may fully or partially comprise an open space such as a body cavity or void. Accordingly, it is intended that all such additions, deletions, modifications and variations be included within the scope of the following claims.

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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A tissue penetrating catheter device useable to penetrate outwardly from the lumen of a blood vessel in which the catheter device is positioned, through the wall of that blood vessel, and to a target location, said device comprising:

i) a flexible catheter body which is insertable into the vein, said catheter body having a side wall, a proximal end, a distal end and an outlet opening formed in the side wall thereof ;

ii) an first lumen through which a separate imaging catheter may be inserted;

iii) a second lumen which extends through said outlet opening;

iv) a tissue penetrating member disposed within said second lumen and advanceable out of said outlet opening; and,

v) an orientation structure positioned on the catheter body, said orientation structure having a) an imaging catheter-receiving space formed therein in alignment with said first lumen and b) at least one marker member located on one side of the imaging catheter receiving space, said at least one marker being positioned and constructed to create on an image display received from an imaging catheter positioned within the imaging catheter-

receiving space, an indication of the path that will be followed by the tissue penetrating member as the tissue penetrating member is advanced from the catheter body.

2. The catheter device of Claim 1 wherein a guidewire lumen which extends longitudinally through said tissue penetration member.
3. The catheter device of Claim 1 wherein the orientation structure comprises a plurality of strut members that extend longitudinally, at circumferentially spaced-apart locations, about said hollow interior space, a first one of said strut members being a) located at a radial position which is aligned with location of the tissue penetration member outlet opening and b) constructed to produce an ultrasound image which is distinguishable from the images produced by the other(s) of said strut members, said first one of said strut members being thereby operative to create, on an image received through an IVUS catheter positioned within hollow interior space.
4. The catheter device of Claim 3 further comprising:
a distal tip member formed on the distal end of said orientation apparatus.
5. The catheter device of Claim 4 wherein a lumen extends through the distal tip member such that an imaging catheter may be advanced from the hollow interior space of the orientation structure through the lumen of the distal tip member.

6. The catheter device of Claim 1 wherein the tissue penetration member is resilient and has a distal portion which is preformed to a curved configuration, such that when the tissue penetration member is in its retracted position it will conform to the shape of the first lumen of the catheter body and when the tissue penetration member is in its extended position its distal portion will assume the curved configuration to which it was preformed.
7. The catheter device of Claim 6 wherein the distal portion of said tissue penetration member is preformed to a curved configuration which has a radius of curvature.
8. The catheter device of Claim 1 wherein said tissue penetration member has a lancet type bevel formed on its distal end.
9. The catheter device of Claim 6 further comprising:
a rigid, tubular tissue penetration member housing disposed within said second lumen such that, when the tissue penetration member is in its retracted position, the distal tip of the tissue penetration member will be disposed within said tissue penetration member housing.
10. The catheter device of Claim 9 wherein said tissue penetration member housing is curved outwardly toward said tissue penetration member outlet aperture.
11. The catheter device of Claim 10 wherein the catheter body is slightly bent to conform with the curvature of said tissue penetration member housing.

12. The catheter device of Claim 9 wherein a tubular liner is disposed within the tubular tissue penetration member housing.
13. The catheter device of Claim 12 wherein said tubular liner is formed of plastic.
14. The catheter device of Claim 12 wherein said tubular liner comprises an inner lubricious layer, a middle structural layer and an outer adhesive layer.
15. The catheter device of Claim 12 wherein said tubular liner extends out of and beyond either end of the tubular tissue penetration member housing.
16. The catheter device of Claim 10 wherein a locator body is connected to said tubular tissue penetration member housing and disposed within said catheter body to stabilize the position and rotational orientation of said tubular tissue penetration member housing.
17. The catheter device of Claim 11 wherein the frictionally engaged surfaces are formed on said tissue penetration member and said catheter body to deter rotation of the tissue penetration member relative to the catheter body.
18. The catheter device of Claim 17 wherein said frictionally engaged surfaces comprise a key formed on one of said tissue penetration member and said catheter body and a

keyway formed on the of said catheter and catheter body, said key being received within said keyway to deter rotation of the tissue penetration member within the catheter body.

19. The catheter device of Claim 17 wherein said frictionally engaged surfaces comprise a non-round cross sectional configuration of said tissue penetration member and a non-round cross-sectional configuration of at least a portion of the catheter which surrounds said tissue penetration member, such that the tissue penetration member is deterred from rotating within the catheter body.

20. A system for creation of a penetration tract from the lumen of a coronary vein to the lumen of a coronary artery in a mammalian heart which has a coronary venous sinus, said system comprising a catheter device according to Claim 1 in combination with:

a coronary sinus guide catheter which comprises a flexible catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending longitudinally therethrough, and a curvilinear segment formed near its distal end;

said catheter device being passable through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter and into a coronary vein.

21. The system of Claim 20 wherein said coronary sinus guide catheter further comprises:

a hemostatic valve associated with the lumen of the guide catheter, said hemostatic valve being constructed to allow the catheter device to pass therethrough, and said hemostatic valve being operative to:

- i) prevent blood from back-flowing out of the coronary sinus guide catheter lumen when the catheter device is not inserted therethrough, and,
- ii) form a seal about the catheter device when the catheter device is inserted through the lumen of the guide catheter to prevent blood from back-flowing therethrough.

22. The system of Claim 20 further comprising:

- an tubular introducer sheath having a tapered distal end and a lumen extending longitudinally therethrough;
- said introducer sheath being passable through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter and into the coronary vein; and,
- said catheter device being insertable through the lumen of the introducer sheath and into the coronary vein, distal to the distal end of the introducer sheath.

23. A tissue-penetrating catheter device that is positionable in the lumen of a blood vessel and useable to form a penetration tract that extends from the lumen of the blood vessel, through the wall of that blood vessel, through a predetermined acceptable penetration zone and to a target location within the patient's body, said catheter device comprising:

- i) a flexible catheter body that is insertable into a blood vessel, said catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end, a outlet opening;
- ii) a lumen that extends through said outlet opening;
- iii) a tissue penetrating member disposed within said lumen, said tissue

penetrating member being sized and configured such that when sufficiently aimed and stabilized, it will advance out of the outlet port, through the wall of the blood vessel, through the acceptable penetration zone and to said target location;

iv) a stabilizer that is configured to deter the tissue penetrating member from deviating from said acceptable penetration zone as it is advanced to said target location.

24. The catheter device of Claim 23 wherein a guidewire lumen extends longitudinally through said tissue penetration member.

25. The catheter device of Claim 23 wherein the stabilizer is selected from the group of stabilizers consisting of;

engagement members for frictional engagement between the tissue penetrating member and the catheter body;

bushings disposed within the lumen that constrains the tissue penetrating member to prevent side-to-side movement thereof;

a reduced diameter region of the lumen that constrains the tissue penetrating member to prevent side-to-side movement thereof;

at least one magnet that creates a magnetic which prevents side to side movement of the tissue penetrating member; and,

a member that is laterally deployable from the catheter adjacent the outlet opening to deter side-to-side movement of the tissue-penetrating-member when it is advanced from the catheter.

26. The catheter device of Claim 23 wherein the stabilizer comprises:

a rigid, tubular tissue penetration member housing disposed within said second lumen such that, when the tissue penetration member is in its retracted position, the distal tip of the tissue penetration member will be disposed within said tissue penetration member housing.

27. The catheter device of Claim 26 wherein said tissue penetration member housing is curved outwardly toward said tissue penetration member outlet aperture.

28. The catheter device of Claim 27 wherein the catheter body is slightly bent to conform with the curvature of said tissue penetration member housing.

29. The catheter device of Claim 26 wherein a tubular liner is disposed within the tubular tissue penetration member housing.

29. The catheter device of Claim 29 wherein said tubular liner is formed of plastic.

31. The catheter device of Claim 29 wherein said tubular liner comprises an inner lubricious layer, a middle layer and an outer adhesive layer.

32. The catheter device of Claim 29 wherein said tubular liner extends

out of and beyond either end of the tubular tissue penetration member housing.

33. The catheter device of Claim 31 wherein a stabilizer body is connected to said tubular tissue penetration member housing and disposed within said catheter body to stabilize the position and rotational orientation of said tubular tissue penetration member housing.

34. The catheter device of Claim 23 wherein the tissue penetration member is curved such that rotation of the tissue penetrating member while it is advanced from the catheter will cause the tissue penetration member to deviate from the acceptable penetration zone and wherein said stabilizer comprises frictionally engaged surfaces formed on said tissue penetration member and said catheter body to deter rotation of the tissue penetration member relative to the catheter body.

35. The catheter device of Claim 34 wherein said frictionally engaged surfaces comprise a key formed on one of said tissue penetration member and said catheter body and a keyway formed on the other of said catheter and catheter body, said key being received within said keyway to deter rotation of the tissue penetration member within the catheter body.

36. The catheter device of Claim 34 wherein said frictionally engaged surfaces comprise the lateral surface of a tissue penetration member of non-round cross sectional configuration and a corresponding non-round cross-sectional configuration of at least a portion of the catheter which surrounds said tissue penetration member, such that the tissue penetration member is deterred from rotating within the catheter body.

37. The catheter device of Claim 23 wherein said stabilizer comprises

a laterally deployable member adjacent the outlet port, said laterally deployable member being initially disposable in a stowed position whereby it is substantially non-protrusive from the catheter and subsequently deployable to a laterally extended position wherein it supports the tissue penetrating member and deters the tissue penetrating member from deviating from the acceptable penetration zone as it is advanced.

38. The catheter device of Claim 1 further comprising a laterally deployable member adjacent the outlet port, said laterally deployable member being initially disposable in a stowed position whereby it is substantially non-protrusive from the catheter and subsequently deployable to a laterally extended position wherein it supports the tissue penetrating member and deters the tissue penetrating member from deviating from the acceptable penetration zone as it is advanced.

39. The catheter of Claim 1 further comprising a rotational lock apparatus for preventing at least a portion of the tissue penetration member from rotating within the catheter while the tissue penetration member is in its retracted position.

40. The catheter of Claim 23 further comprising a rotational lock apparatus for preventing at least a portion of the tissue penetrating member from rotating within the catheter while the tissue penetration member is in its retracted position.

41. The catheter device of Claim 40 wherein said rotational lock apparatus comprises a first member formed on the catheter body and a

second member formed on the tissue penetration member such that, when the tissue penetration member is in its retracted position, the first and second members will frictionally engage one another to prevent rotation of at least the portion of the tissue penetrating member that is distal to the second member.

42. A catheter system for forming a penetration tract from the lumen of a coronary blood vessel of a mammalian patient to a target location within the patient's body, said catheter system comprising:

a. a coronary sinus guide catheter having a distal end, said coronary sinus guide catheter being configured to be advanced transluminally through the patient's venous vasculature until its distal end is positioned in the patient's coronary venous sinus;

b. a tissue penetrating catheter that is insertable through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter, said tissue penetrating catheter comprising:

i) a flexible catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end

and an outlet port formed in one side thereof ;

ii) a lumen which extends through said outlet port; and,

iii) a tissue penetrating member disposed within said lumen and advanceable out of said outlet port;

c. a subselective sheath that comprises a tube having a

lumen and a distal end, said tube being sized to be advanced through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter.

43. The system of Claim 42 further comprising:
a coronary sinus guide introducer having a tapered distal portion and a guidewire lumen that extends longitudinally therethrough, said coronary sinus guide introducer being insertable through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter such that its tapered distal portion protrudes out of and beyond the distal end of the coronary sinus guide catheter;
44. The system of Claim 42 further comprising:
a subselective sheath introducer having a tapered distal portion and a guidewire lumen that extends longitudinally therethrough, said subselective sheath introducer being insertable through the lumen of the subselective sheath such that its tapered distal portion protrudes out of and beyond the distal end of the subselective sheath.
45. A method for performing a percutaneous in situ coronary venous arterialization, said method comprising:
- A. providing a catheter system that includes:
- i) a coronary sinus guide catheter having a distal end, said coronary sinus guide catheter being configured to be advanced transluminally through the patient's venous vasculature until its distal end is positioned in the patient's coronary venous sinus;
- ii) a tissue penetrating catheter that comprises a) a flexible catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end and an outlet port formed in one side thereof; b) a lumen that extends through said outlet port; and, c) a tissue penetrating member having a lumen extending longitudinally therethrough,

said tissue penetrating member being disposed within said lumen and advanceable out of said outlet port;

- iii) a subselective sheath having a distal end and a lumen that extends longitudinally therethrough, said sheath being sized to be advanced through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter; B. inserting a first guidewire having a proximal end and a distal end such the distal end of said first guidewire is in the coronary venous vasculature and its proximal end is outside of the patient's body;
- C. advancing the coronary sinus guide catheter over the first guidewire to a position where the distal end of the coronary sinus guide catheter is within the coronary sinus;
- D. advancing the tissue penetrating catheter through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter and over the first guidewire, to a position within a coronary vein;
- E. rotationally orienting the tissue penetrating catheter to aim the tissue penetrating member at a location within the lumen of an artery;
- F. advancing the tissue penetrating member from the catheter to form a penetration tract through a predetermined acceptable penetration zone that includes penetration through the wall of the vein and the wall of the artery, such that the distal end of the tissue penetration member is in the lumen of the artery;
- G. passing a second guidewire through the lumen of the tissue penetrating member and into the lumen of the artery;
- H. retracting the tissue penetration member into the tissue penetrating catheter and removing the tissue penetrating catheter, leaving the second guidewire in place;
- I. thereafter advancing the subselective sheath through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter and over the second

guidewire to a position where the distal end of the subselective sheath is located within the vein adjacent the penetration tract formed in Step F;

J. providing a tract enlarging catheter, advancing said tract enlarging catheter through the subselective sheath and using the tract enlarging catheter to enlarge the penetration tract formed in Step F to create a bloodflow passageway between the vein and artery;

K. removing the tract enlarging catheter, leaving the subselective sheath and second guidewire in place;

L. providing a connector delivery catheter and a connector that is deployable into the bloodflow passageway to maintain said bloodflow passageway after completion of the operative procedure and passing the connector delivery catheter through the subselective sheath and delivering said connector into said bloodflow passageway;

M. removing the connector delivery catheter leaving the subselective sheath and second guidewire in place;

N. retracting the subselective sheath to a location within the vein that is proximal to the location of the bloodflow passageway;

O. removing the second guidewire;

P. delivering through the subselective sheath a blocker member to block the lumen of the vein proximal to the location of the bloodflow passageway; and,

Q. removing the subselective sheath and coronary sinus guide catheter.

46. The method of Claim 45 wherein the catheter system provided in

Step A further comprises:

a coronary sinus guide introducer having a tapered distal portion and a guidewire lumen that extends longitudinally therethrough, said

coronary sinus guide introducer being insertable through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter such that its tapered distal portion protrudes out of and beyond the distal end of the coronary sinus guide catheter;

and wherein Step C comprises:

placing the coronary sinus guide introducer through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter such that at least part of its tapered distal portion protrudes out of the guide catheter's distal end;

inserting the proximal end of the first guidewire into the guidewire lumen of the coronary sinus guide introducer and advancing the coronary sinus guide catheter and coronary sinus guide introducer over the first guidewire until the distal end of the coronary sinus guide catheter is in the coronary sinus; and,

removing the coronary sinus guide introducer leaving the coronary sinus guide catheter and first guidewire in place.

47. The method of Claim 45 wherein the catheter system provided in

Step A further comprises:

a subselective sheath introducer having a tapered distal portion and a guidewire lumen that extends longitudinally therethrough, said subselective sheath introducer being insertable through the lumen of the

subselective sheath such that its tapered distal portion protrudes out of and beyond the distal end of the subselective sheath;

and wherein Step G comprises:

placing the subselective sheath introducer through the lumen of the subselective sheath such that at least part of its tapered distal portion protrudes out of the subselective sheath's distal end;

inserting the proximal end of the second guidewire into the guidewire lumen of the subselective sheath introducer and advancing the subselective sheath and subselective sheath introducer over the first guidewire until the distal end of the subselective sheath is positioned in the coronary vein adjacent to said penetration tract; and,

removing the subselective sheath introducer leaving the subselective sheath and second guidewire in place.

48. The method of Claim 45 wherein Step G is eliminated and the tract enlarging catheter of Step G is advanced into position and utilized without the subselective sheath.

49. The method of Claim 45 wherein Steps I and J comprise:

- I. removing the tract enlarging catheter and subselective sheath, leaving the second guidewire in place;
- J. providing a connector delivery catheter and a connector that

is deployable into the bloodflow passageway to maintain said bloodflow passageway after completion of the operative procedure, advancing the connector delivery catheter over the second guidewire and delivering said connector into said bloodflow passageway.

50. The method of Claim 45 wherein the tissue penetrating catheter provided in Step A further comprises:

an imaging catheter lumen through which a separate imaging catheter may be inserted; and,

an orientation structure positioned on the catheter body, said orientation structure having an imaging catheter-receiving space formed therein in alignment with said first lumen and at least one marker member located on one side of the imaging catheter receiving space, said at least one marker being positioned and constructed to create on an image display received from an imaging catheter positioned within the imaging catheter-receiving space, an indication of the .

and wherein Step E comprises:

inserting an imaging catheter through the imaging catheter lumen and into the imaging catheter receiving space; using said imaging catheter to image the target location within said artery; rotating the tissue penetrating catheter as necessary to cause the indication of the path that will be followed by the tissue penetrating member as the tissue penetrating member is advanced from

the catheter body to indicate that said tissue penetrating member will pass into said target location within said artery.

51. The method of Claim 45 wherein the tissue penetrating catheter provided in Step A further comprises:

a stabilizer that is configured to deter the tissue penetrating member from deviating from said acceptable penetration zone as it is advanced to said target location; and,

wherein Step F comprises;

advancing the tissue penetrating member while utilizing said stabilizer to prevent the tissue penetrating member from deviating from said acceptable penetration zone, thereby forming a penetration tract through the acceptable penetration zone that includes penetration through the wall of the vein and the wall of the artery, such that the distal end of the tissue penetration member is in the lumen of the artery.

52. A method for performing a percutaneous in situ coronary artery bypass, said method comprising:

AA. providing a catheter system that includes:

i) a coronary sinus guide catheter having a distal end, said coronary sinus guide catheter being configured to be advanced transluminally through the patient's venous vasculature until its distal end is positioned in the patient's coronary venous sinus;

ii) a tissue penetrating catheter that comprises a) a flexible catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end and an outlet port formed in one side thereof; b) a lumen that extends through said outlet port; and, c) a tissue penetrating member having a lumen extending longitudinally therethrough, said tissue penetrating

member being disposed within said lumen and advanceable out of said outlet port;

iii) a subselective sheath having a distal end and a lumen that extends longitudinally therethrough, said sheath being sized to be advanced through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter;

AB. inserting a first guidewire having a proximal end and a distal end into the patient such the distal end of said first guidewire is in the coronary venous vasculature and its proximal end is outside of the patient's body;

AC. advancing the coronary sinus guide catheter over the first guidewire to a position where the distal end of the coronary sinus guide catheter is within the coronary sinus;

AD. advancing the tissue penetrating catheter through the lumen of the

coronary sinus guide catheter and over the first guidewire, to a first position within a coronary vein;

AE. rotationally orienting the tissue penetrating catheter to aim the tissue penetrating member at a first target location within the lumen of an artery;

AF. advancing the tissue penetrating member from the catheter to form a first penetration tract distal to the obstruction, said first penetration tract extending through a predetermined acceptable penetration zone that includes penetration through the wall of the vein and the wall of the artery, such that the distal end of the tissue penetration member enters the lumen of the artery;

AG. passing a second guidewire through the lumen of the tissue penetrating member and into the lumen of the artery;

AH. retracting the tissue penetration member into the tissue penetrating catheter and removing the tissue penetrating catheter, leaving the second guidewire in place;

AI. advancing the subselective sheath over the first guidewire to a location that is distal to the first penetration tract formed in Step AF;

AJ. delivering through the subselective sheath a blocker member to block the lumen of the vein distal to the first penetration tract;

AK. removing the subselective sheath, leaving the first guidewire in place;

AL. advancing the tissue penetrating catheter through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter and over the first guidewire, to a second position within a coronary vein;

AM. rotationally orienting the tissue penetrating catheter to aim the tissue penetrating member at a second target location within the lumen of an artery;

AN. advancing the tissue penetrating member from the catheter to form a second penetration tract proximal to the obstruction, said second penetration tract extending through a predetermined acceptable penetration zone that includes penetration through the wall of the vein and the wall of the artery, such that the distal end of the tissue penetration member enters the lumen of the artery;

AO. passing a third guidewire through the lumen of the tissuepenetrating member and into the lumen of the artery;

AP. retracting the tissue penetration member into the tissue penetrating catheter and removing the tissue penetrating catheter, leaving the third guidewire in place;

AQ. advancing the subselective sheath through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter and over the second guidewire to a position where the distal end of the subselective sheath is located within the vein adjacent the first penetration tract formed in Step AF;

AR. providing a tract enlarging catheter, advancing said tract enlarging catheter through the subselective sheath and using the tract enlarging catheter to enlarge the first penetration tract formed in

Step AF to create a bloodflow passageway between the vein and artery distal to the obstruction;

AS. removing the tract enlarging catheter, leaving the subselective sheath and second guidewire in place;

AT. providing a connector delivery catheter and a connector that is deployable into the bloodflow passageway to maintain said bloodflow passageway after completion of the operative procedure and passing the connector delivery catheter through the subselective sheath and delivering said connector into said bloodflow passageway;

AU. removing the connector delivery catheter, subselective sheath and second guidewire;

AV. advancing the subselective sheath through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter and over the third guidewire to a position where the distal end of the subselective sheath is located within the vein adjacent the second penetration tract formed in Step AN;

AW. providing a tract enlarging catheter, advancing said tract enlarging catheter through the subselective sheath and using the tract enlarging catheter to enlarge the second penetration tract formed in Step AN to create a proximal bloodflow passageway between the vein and artery proximal to the obstruction;

AX. removing the tract enlarging catheter, leaving the subselective sheath and third guidewire in place;

AY. providing a connector delivery catheter and a connector that is deployable into the proximal bloodflow passageway to maintain said bloodflow passageway after completion of the operative procedure and passing the connector delivery catheter through the subselective sheath and delivering said connector into said proximal bloodflow passageway;

AZ. removing the connector delivery catheter;

- BA. retracting the subselective sheath to a location within the vein that is proximal to the location of the bloodflow passageway;
- BB. removing the third guidewire;
- BC. delivering through the subselective sheath a blocker member to block the lumen of the vein proximal to the location of the proximal bloodflow passageway; and,
- BD. removing the subselective sheath and coronary sinus guide catheter.

53. The method of Claim 52 wherein the catheter system provided in Step AA further comprises:

a coronary sinus guide introducer having a tapered distal portion and a guidewire lumen that extends longitudinally therethrough, said coronary sinus guide introducer being insertable through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter such that its tapered distal portion protrudes out of and beyond the distal end of the coronary sinus guide catheter;

wherein Step AC comprises:

placing the coronary sinus guide introducer through the lumen of the coronary sinus guide catheter such that at least part of its tapered distal portion protrudes out of the guide catheter's distal end;

inserting the proximal end of the first guidewire into the guidewire lumen of the coronary sinus guide introducer and

advancing the coronary sinus guide catheter and coronary sinus guide introducer over the first guidewire until the distal end of the coronary sinus guide catheter is in the coronary sinus; and,

removing the coronary sinus guide introducer leaving the coronary sinus guide catheter and first guidewire in place.

54. The method of Claim 52 wherein the catheter system provided in

Step AA further comprises:

a subselective sheath introducer having a tapered distal portion and a guidewire lumen that extends longitudinally therethrough, said subselective sheath introducer being insertable through the lumen of the subselective sheath such that its tapered distal portion protrudes out of and beyond the distal end of the subselective sheath;

wherein Step AQ comprises:

placing the subselective sheath introducer through the lumen of the subselective sheath such that at least part of its tapered distal portion protrudes out of the subselective sheath's distal end;

inserting the proximal end of the second guidewire into the guidewire lumen of the subselective sheath introducer and advancing the subselective sheath and

subselective sheath introducer over the first guidewire until the distal end of the subselective sheath is positioned in the coronary vein adjacent to said first penetration tract formed in Step AF; and,

removing the subselective sheath introducer leaving the subselective sheath and second guidewire in place;

and wherein Step AQ comprises:

placing the subselective sheath introducer through the lumen of the subselective sheath such that at least part of its tapered distal portion protrudes out of the subselective sheath's distal end;

inserting the proximal end of the third guidewire into the guidewire lumen of the subselective sheath introducer and advancing the subselective sheath and subselective sheath introducer over the first guidewire until the distal end of the subselective sheath is positioned in the coronary vein adjacent to said second penetration tract formed in Step AN; and,

removing the subselective sheath introducer leaving the subselective sheath and third guidewire in place;

55. The method of Claim 52 wherein Steps AQ and AV are eliminated and the tract enlarging catheter of Steps AR and AW advanced into position and utilized without the subselective sheath.

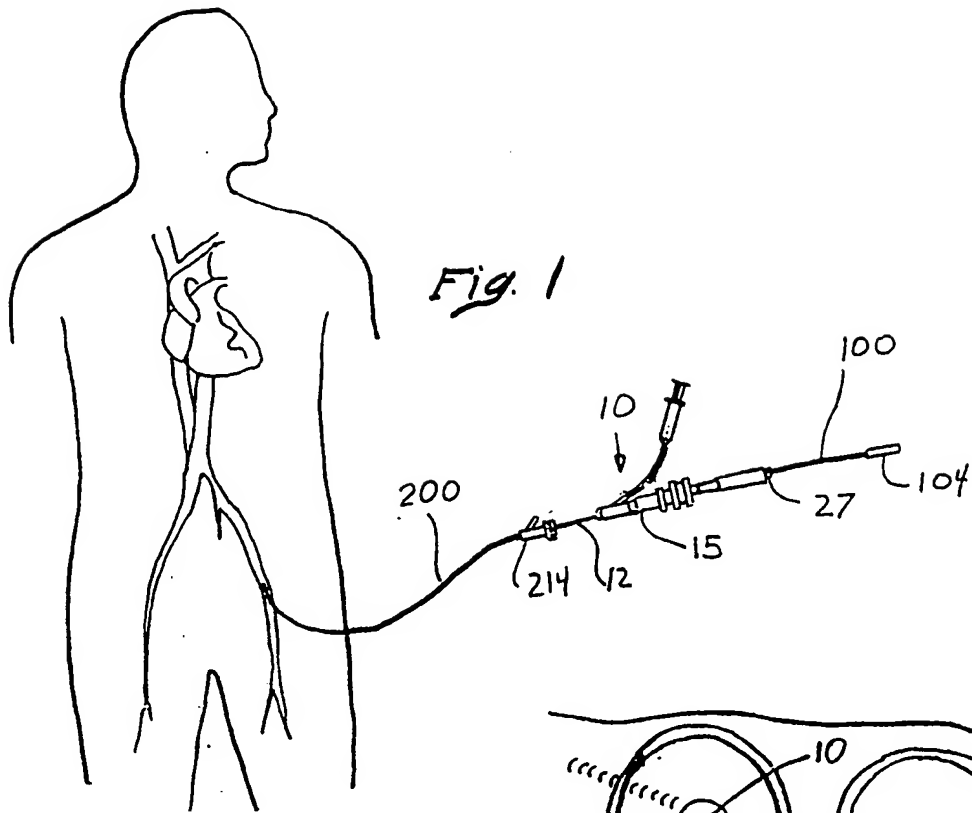


Fig 2

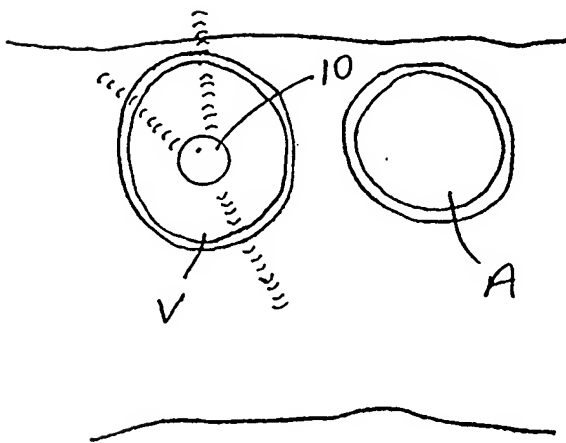
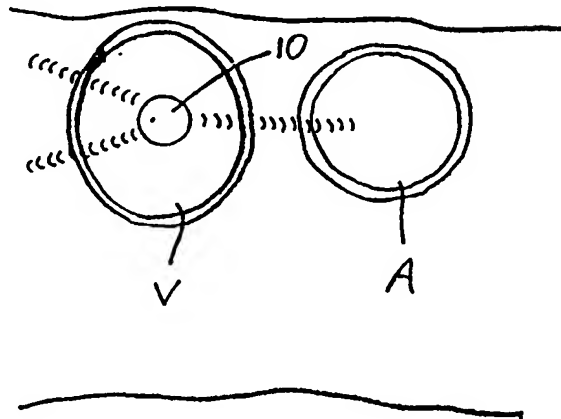
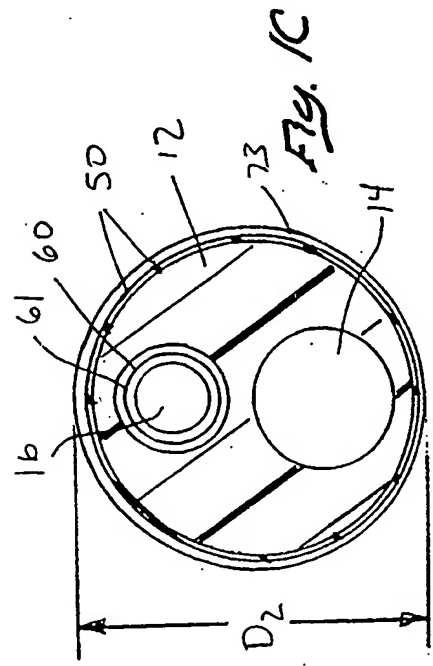
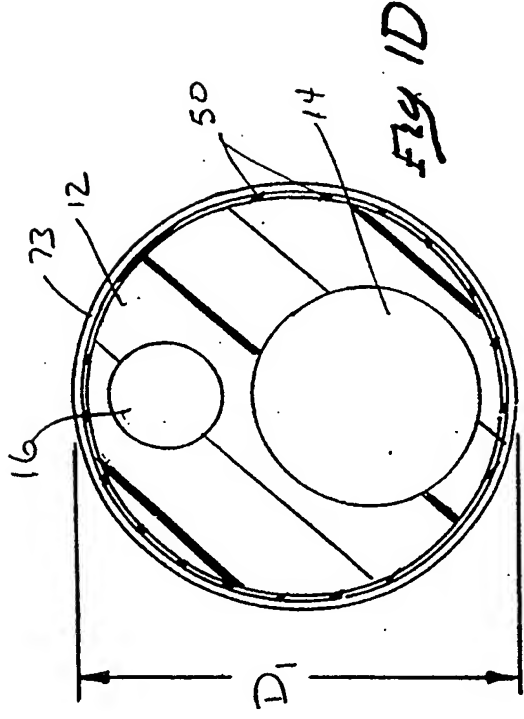
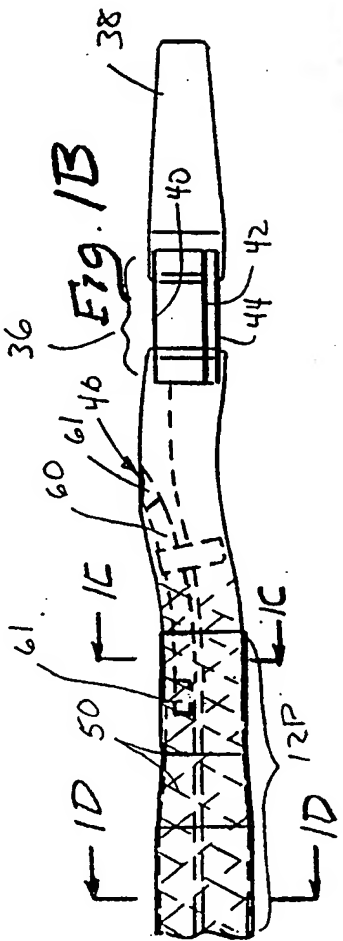
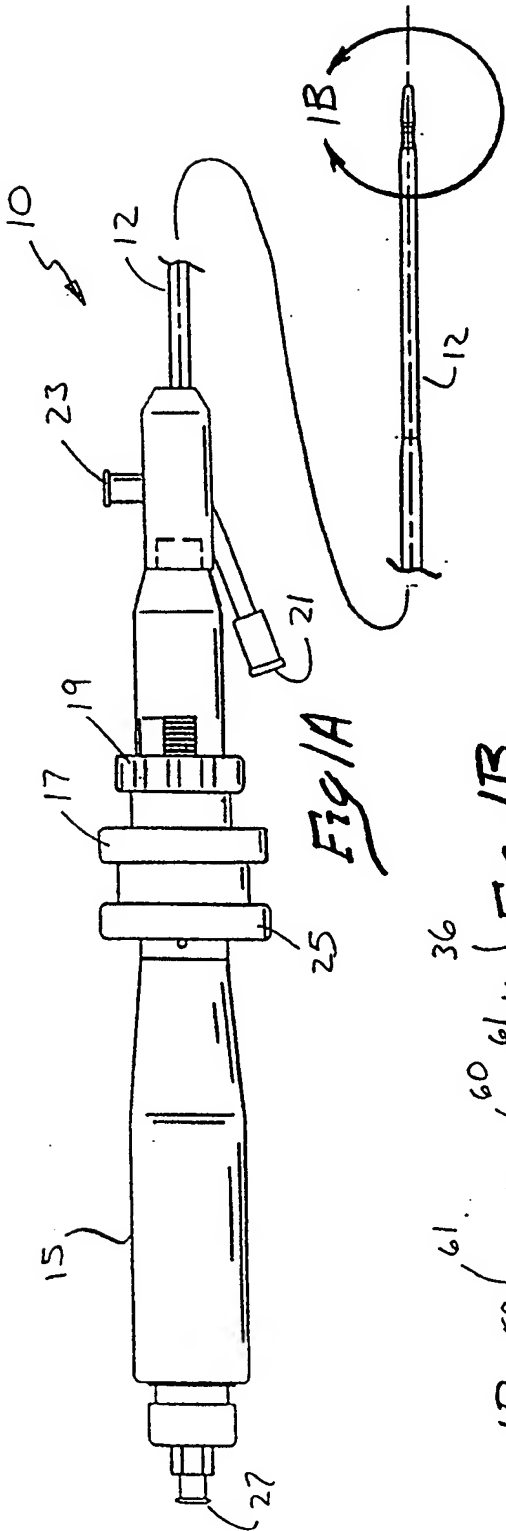


Fig. 3



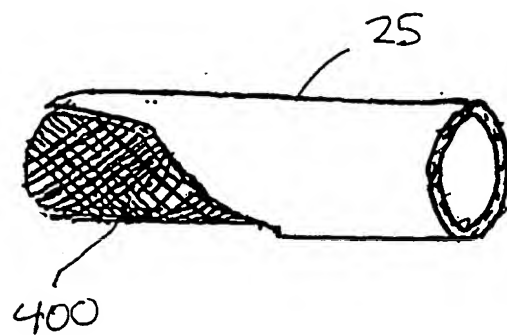


Fig. 1a'

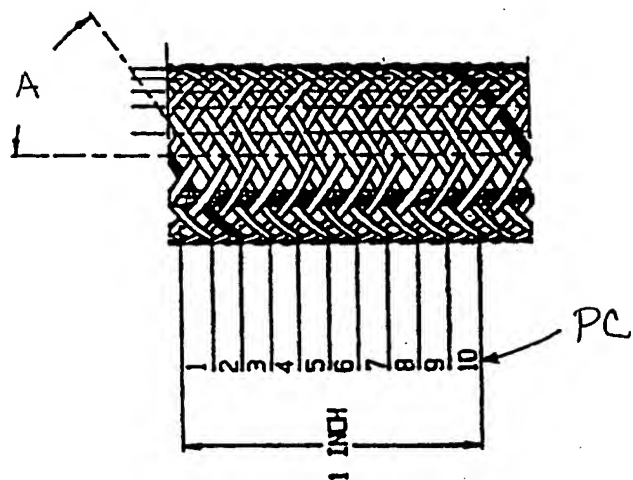
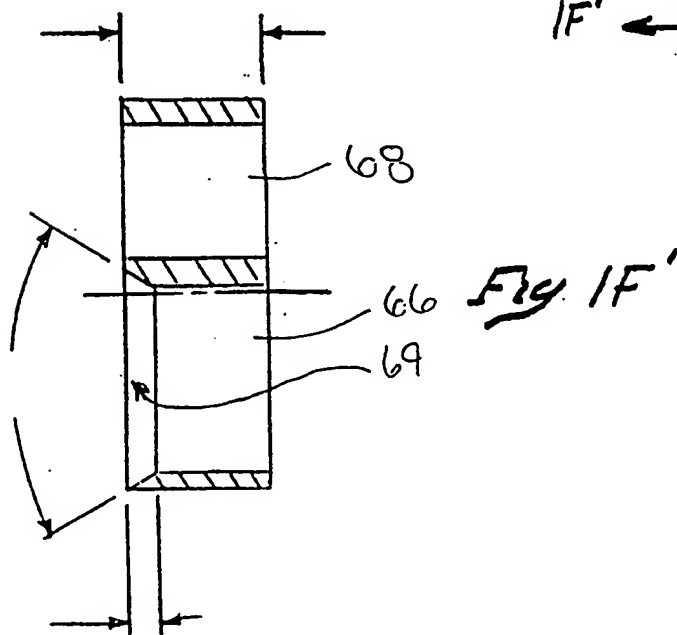
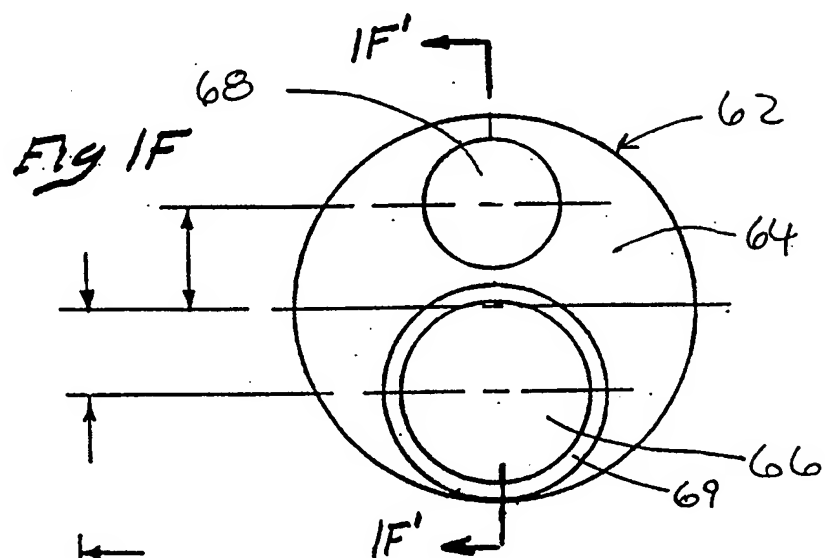
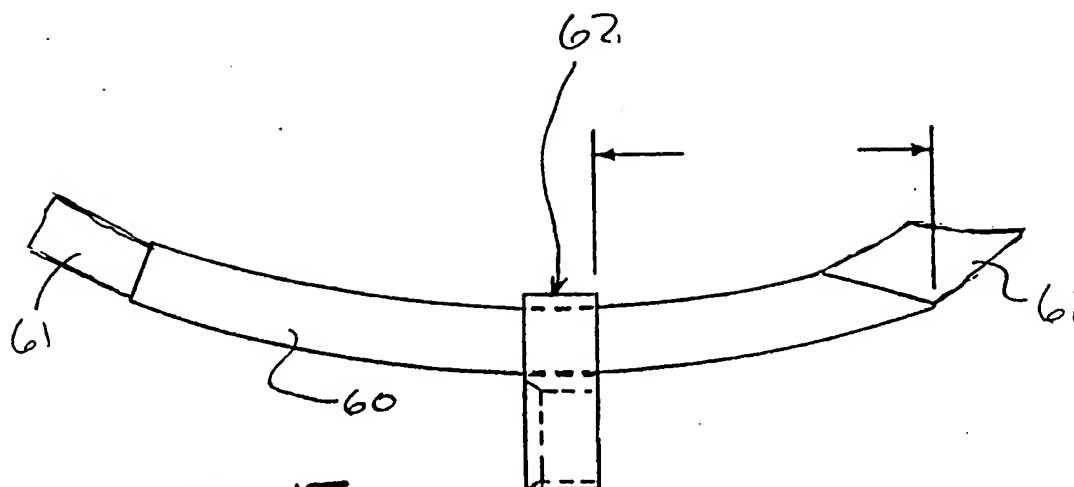


Fig. 1a''



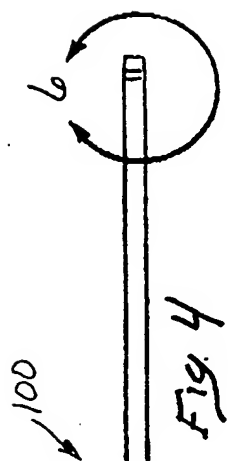


Fig. 4

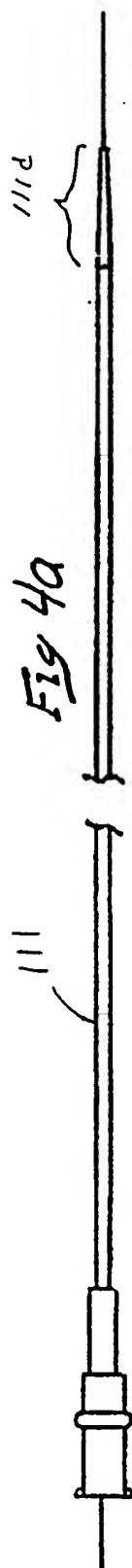


Fig 4a

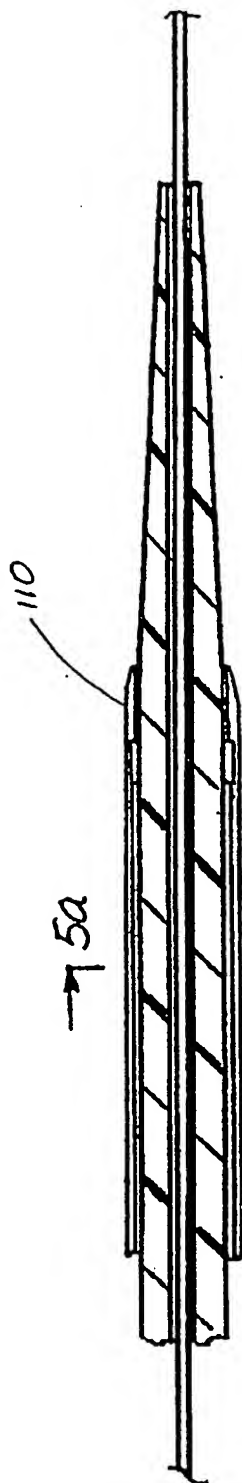


Fig. 5

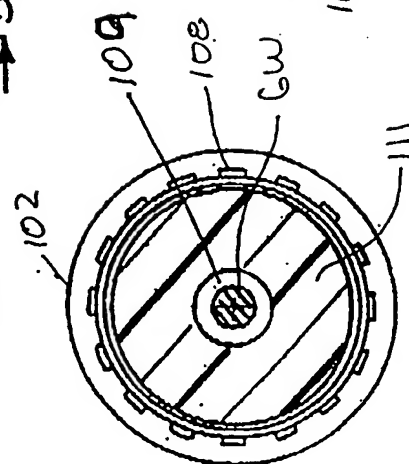
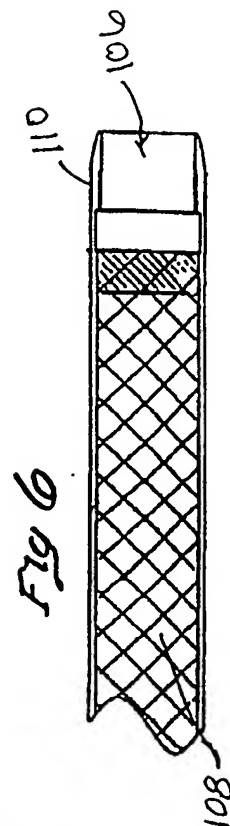
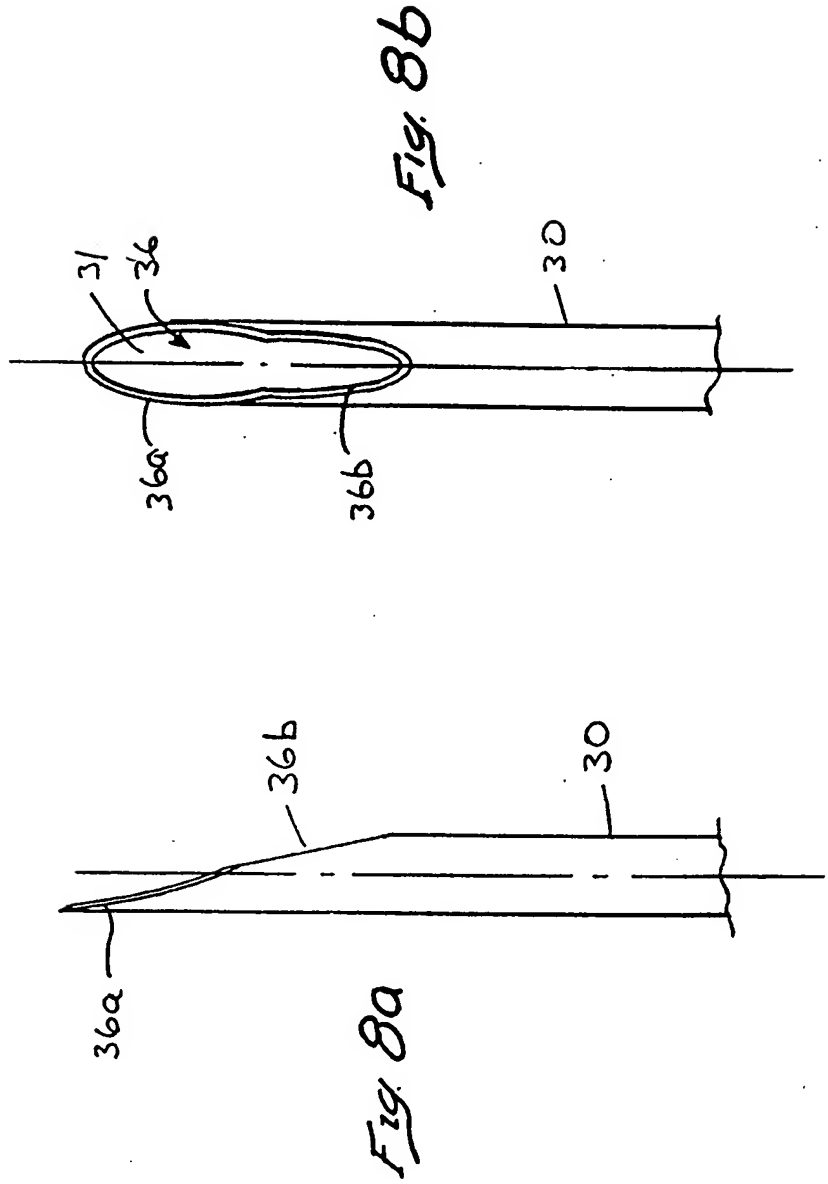
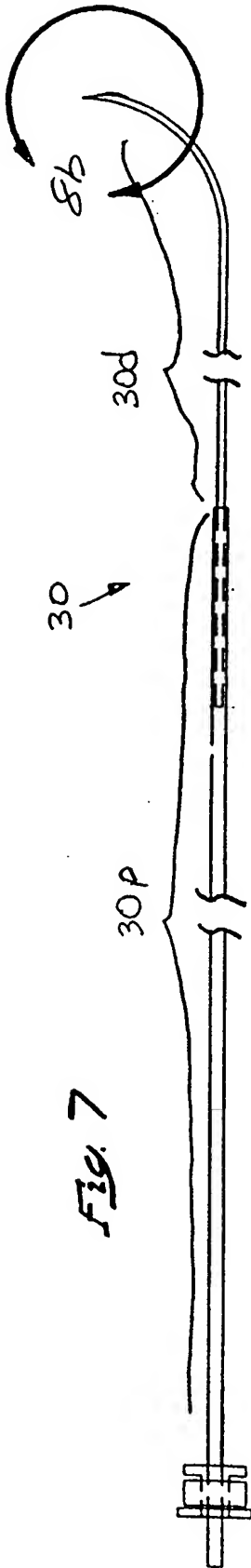
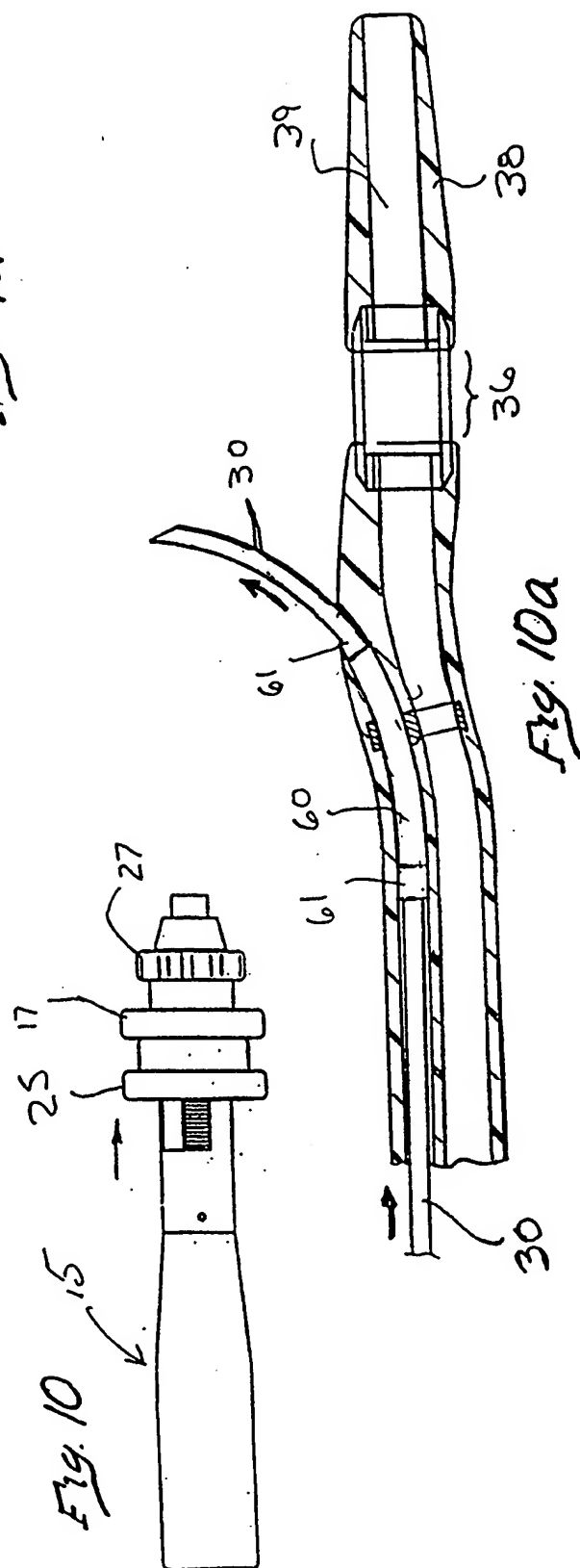
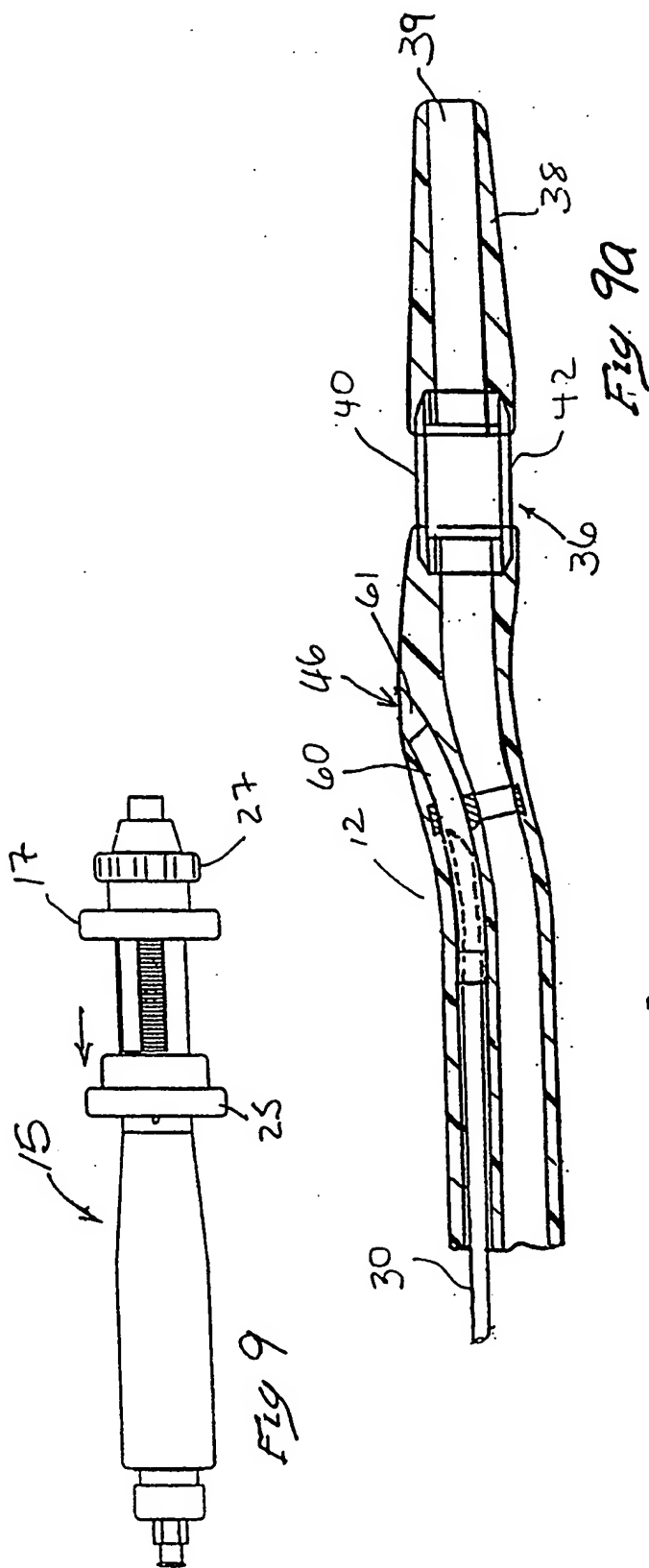


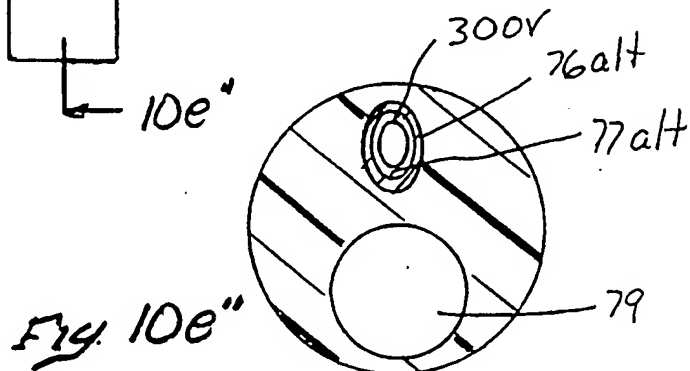
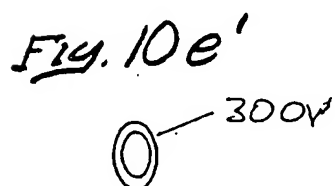
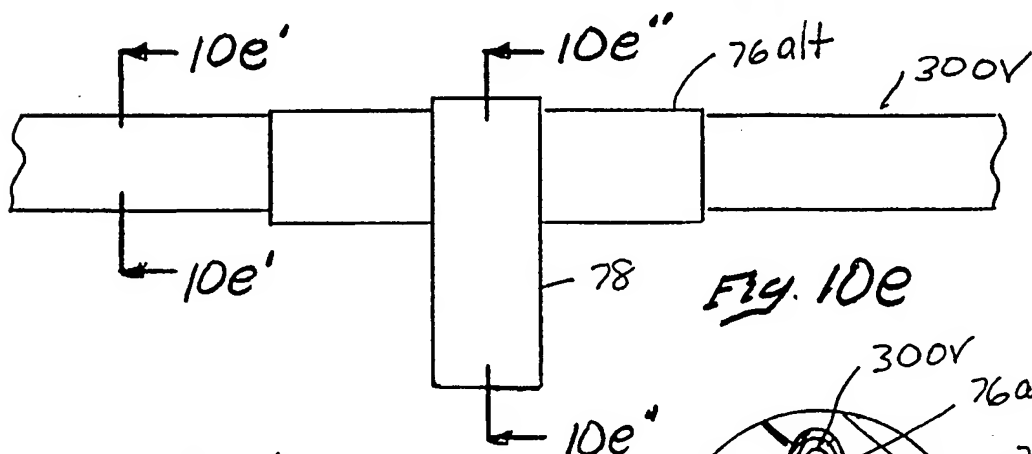
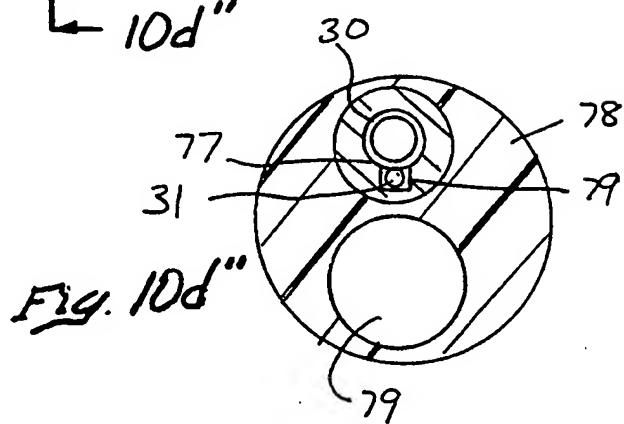
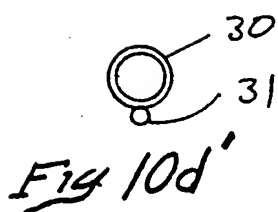
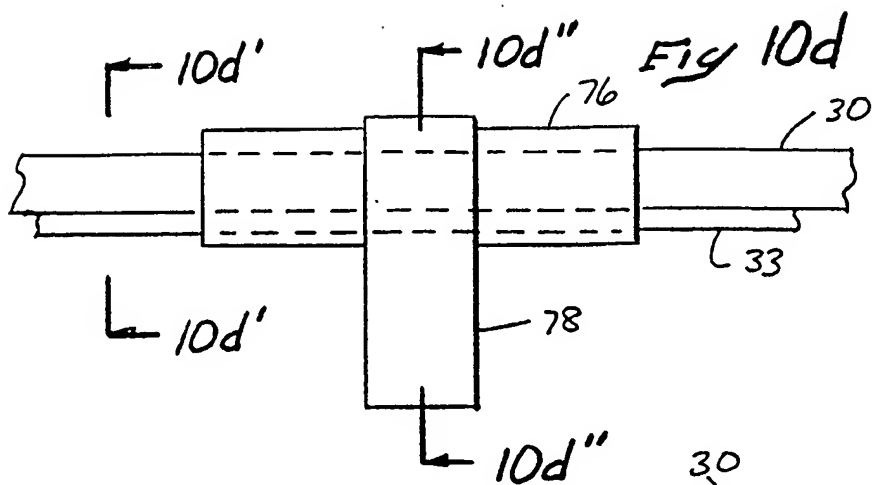
Fig 5a

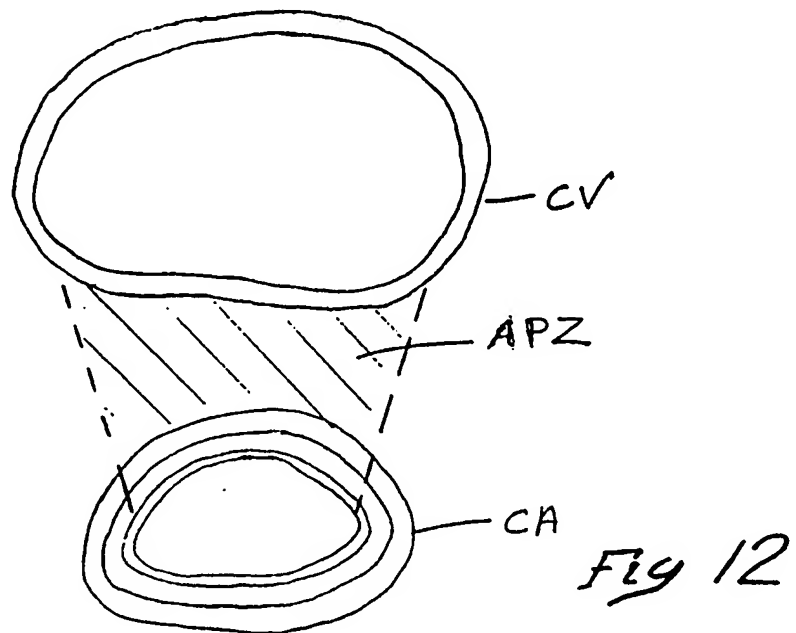
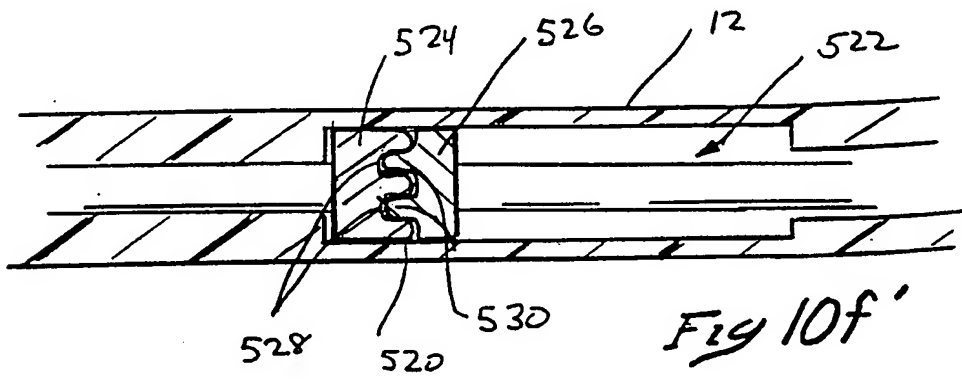
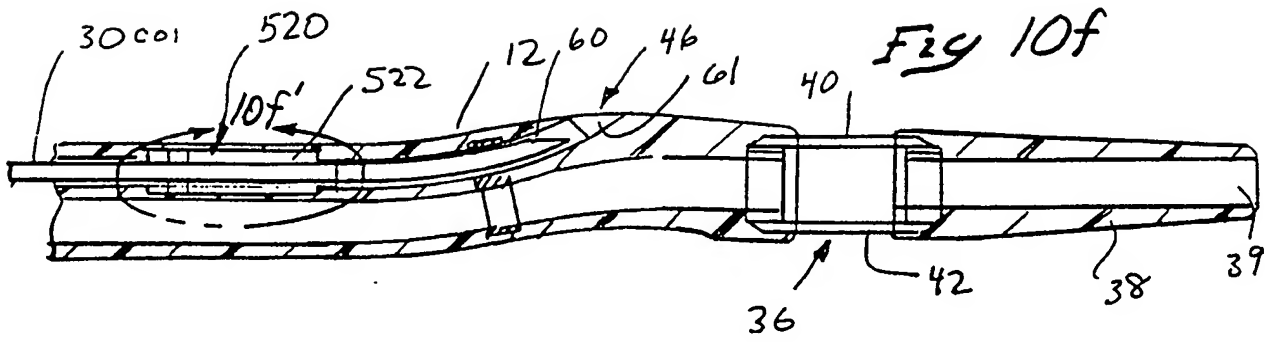


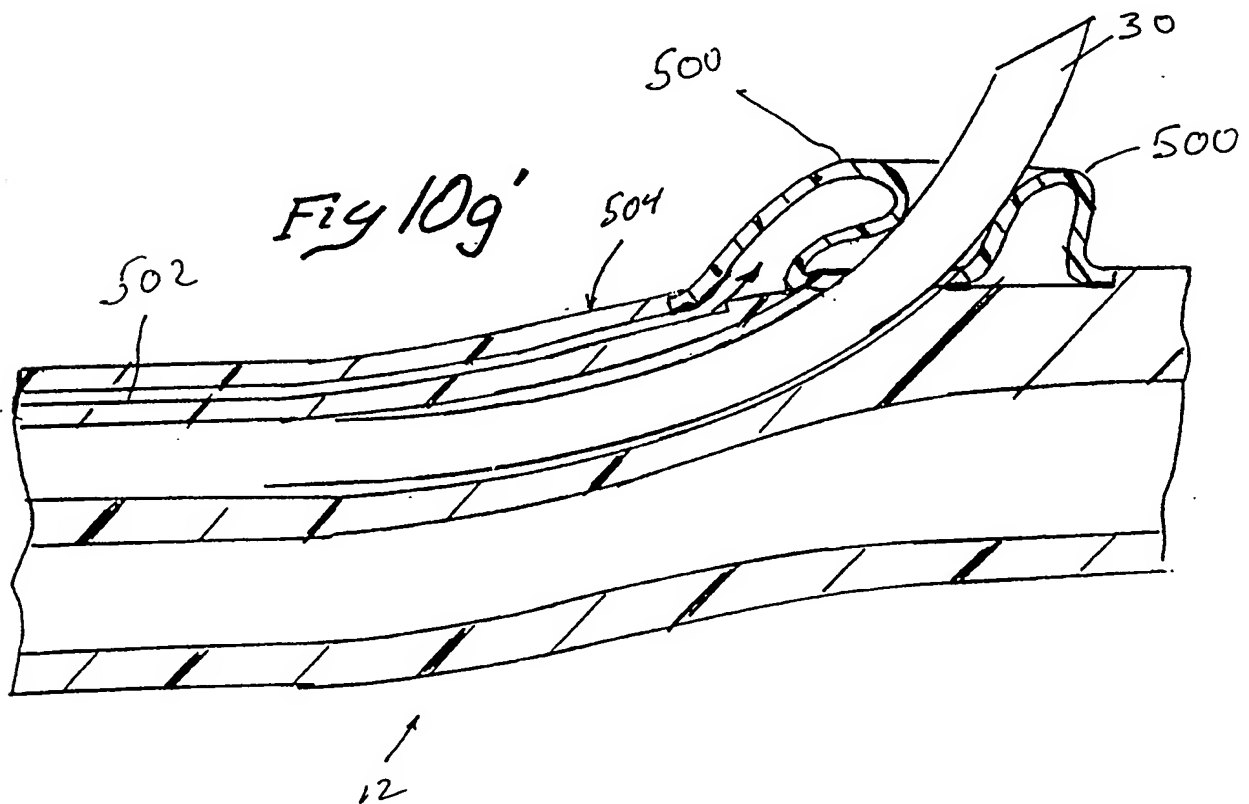
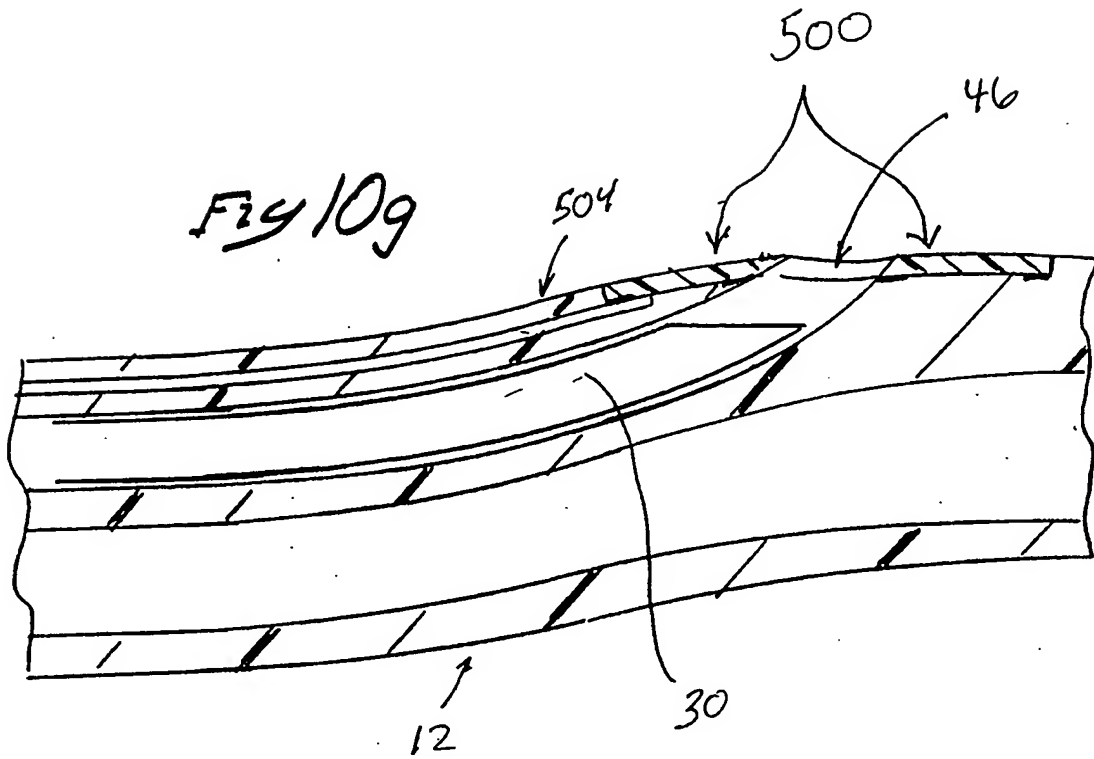
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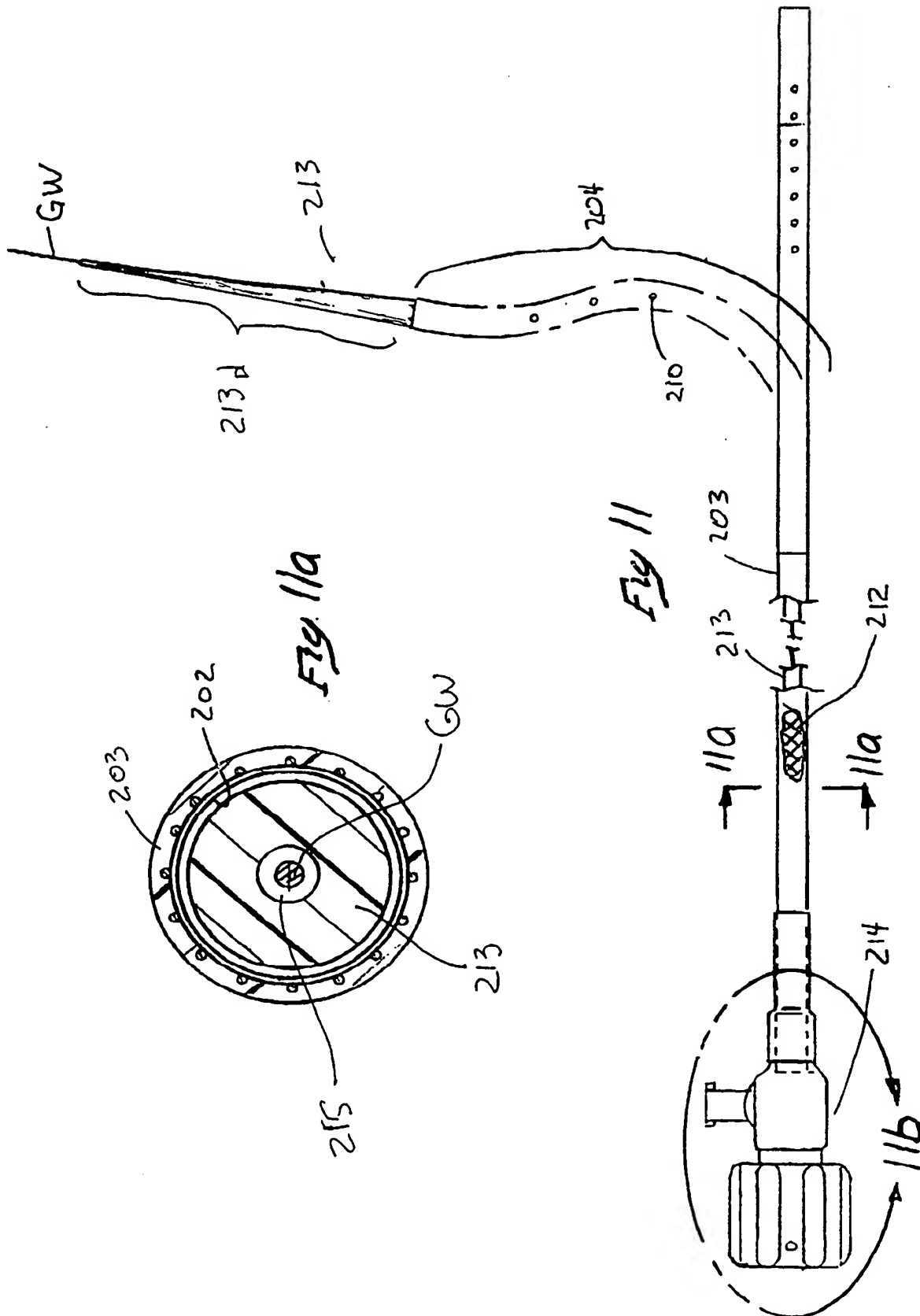


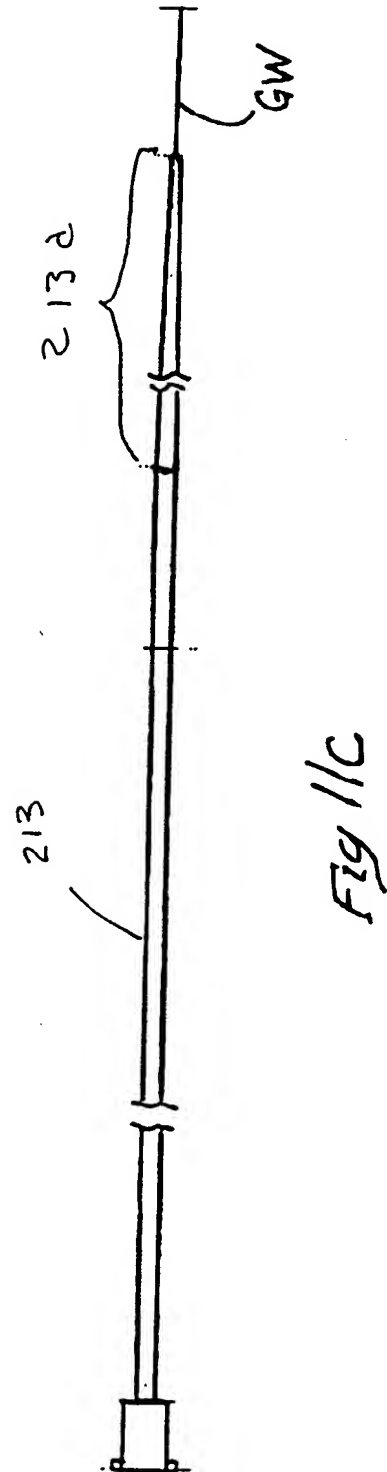
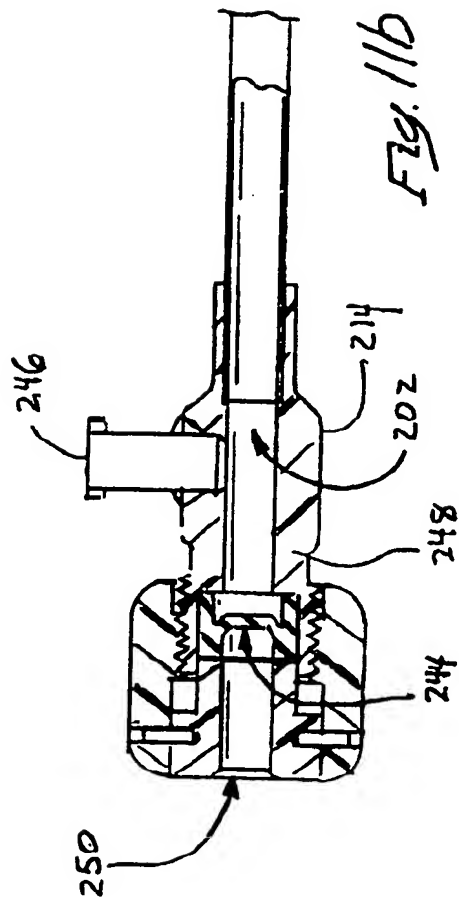


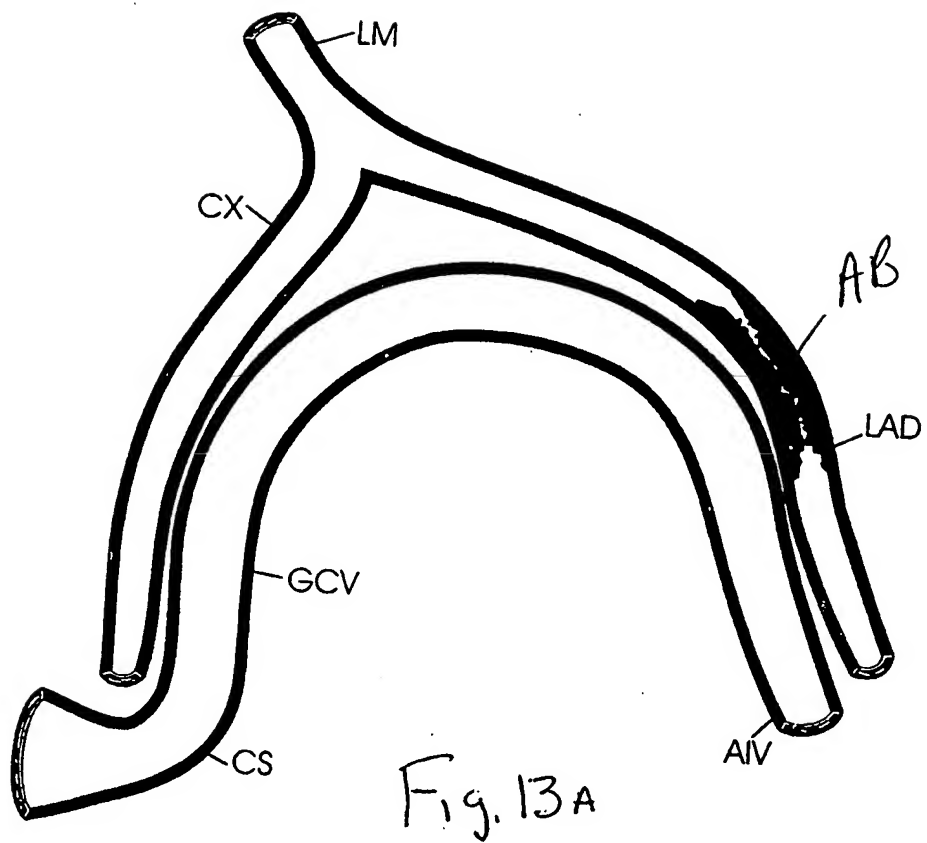


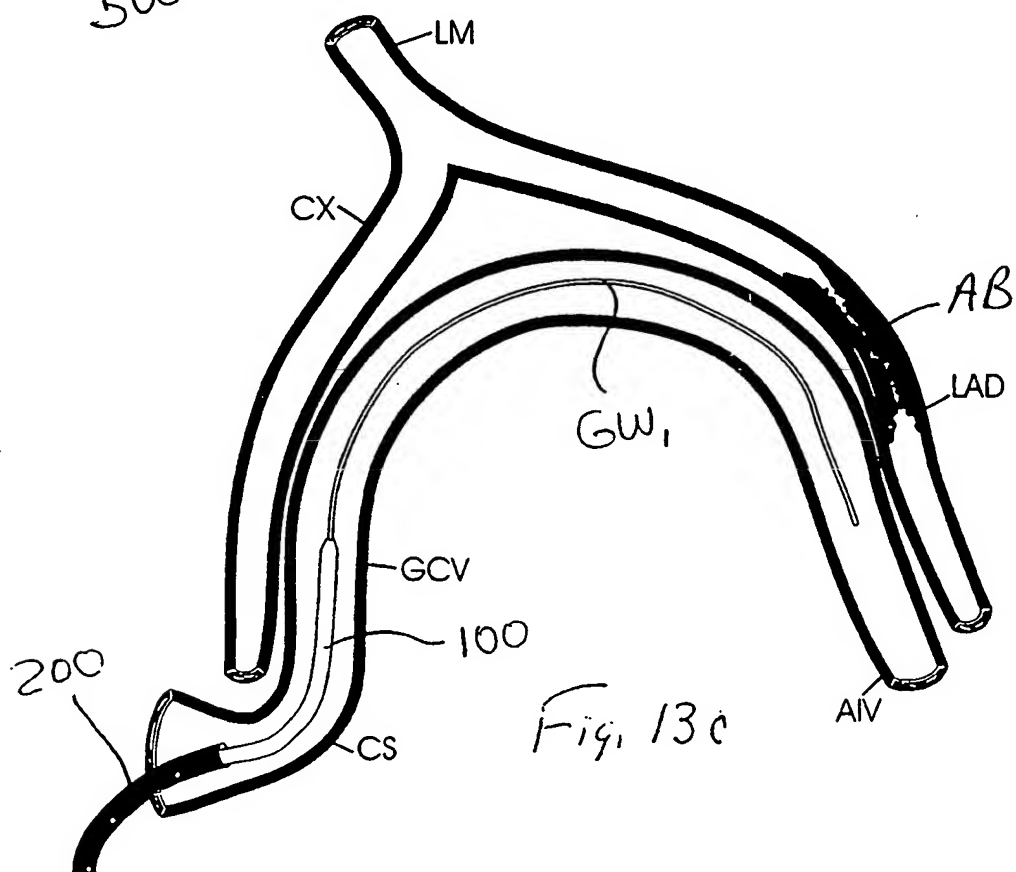
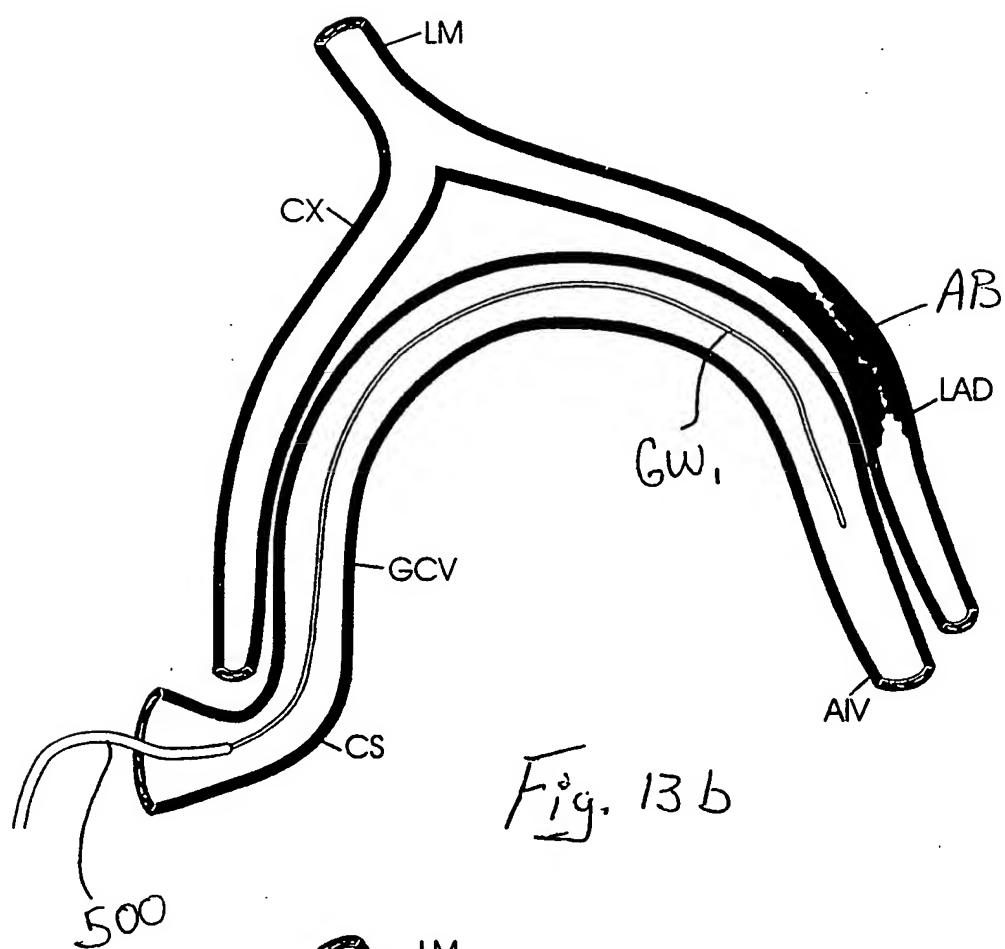


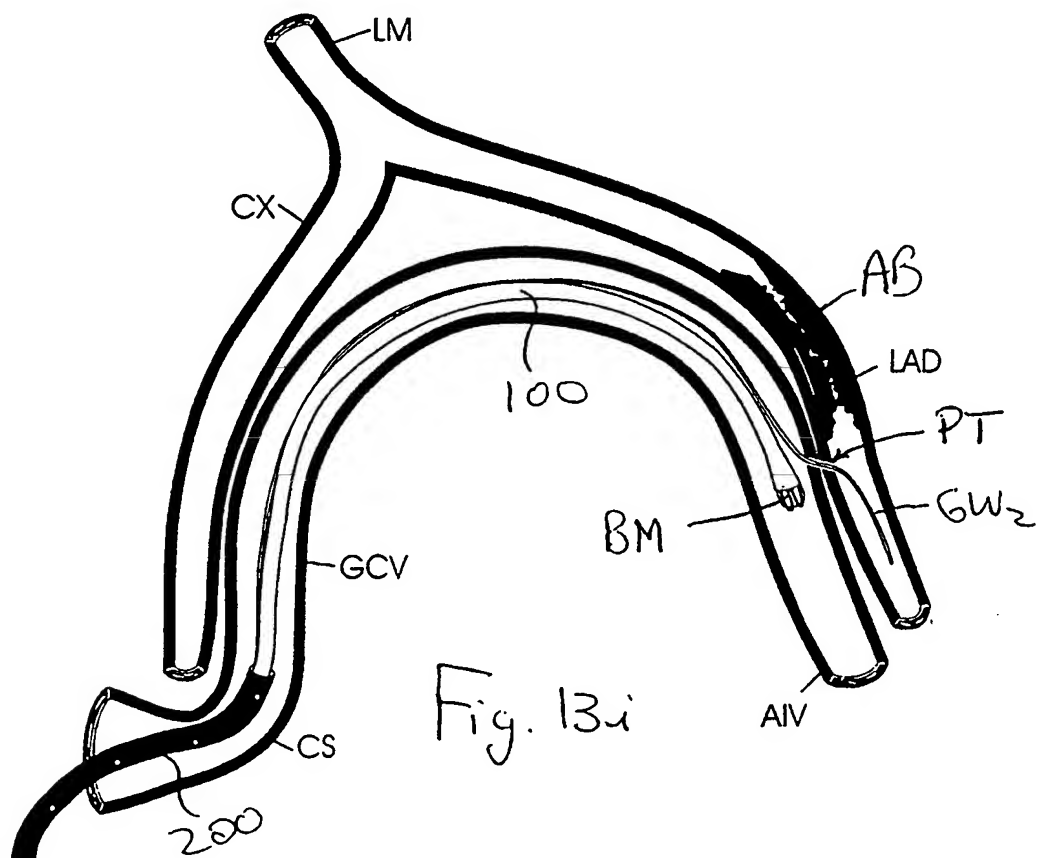
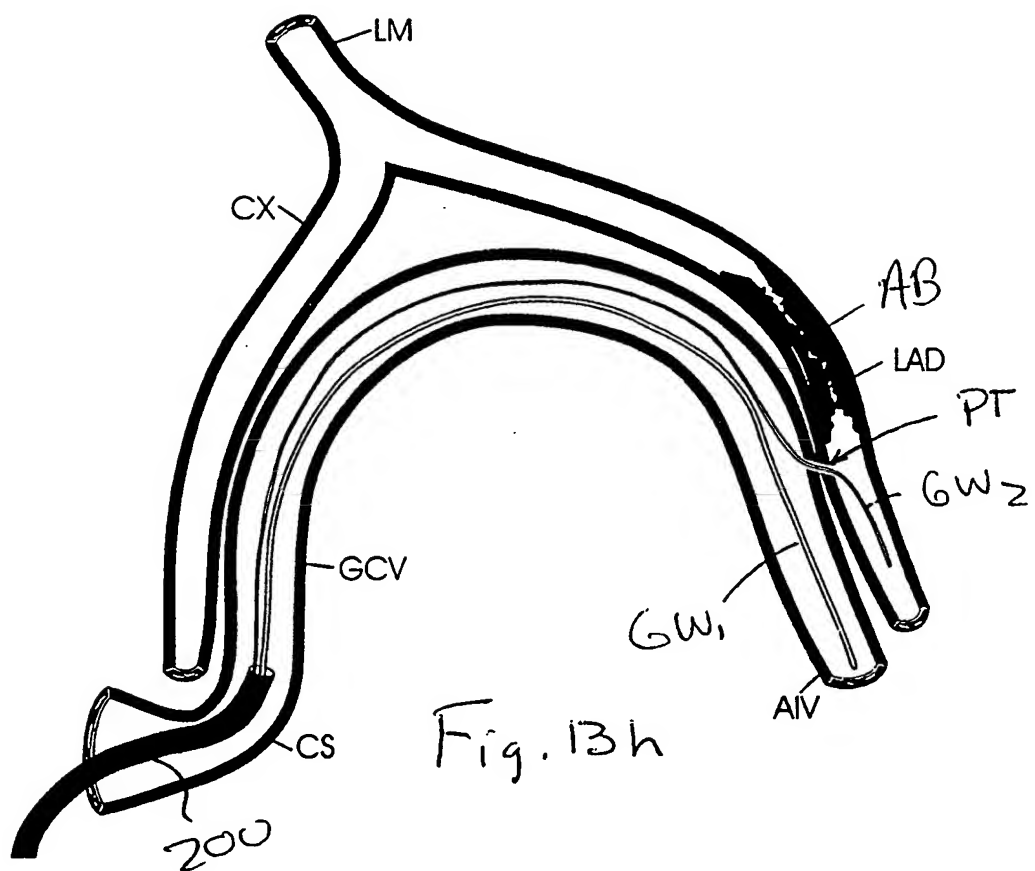


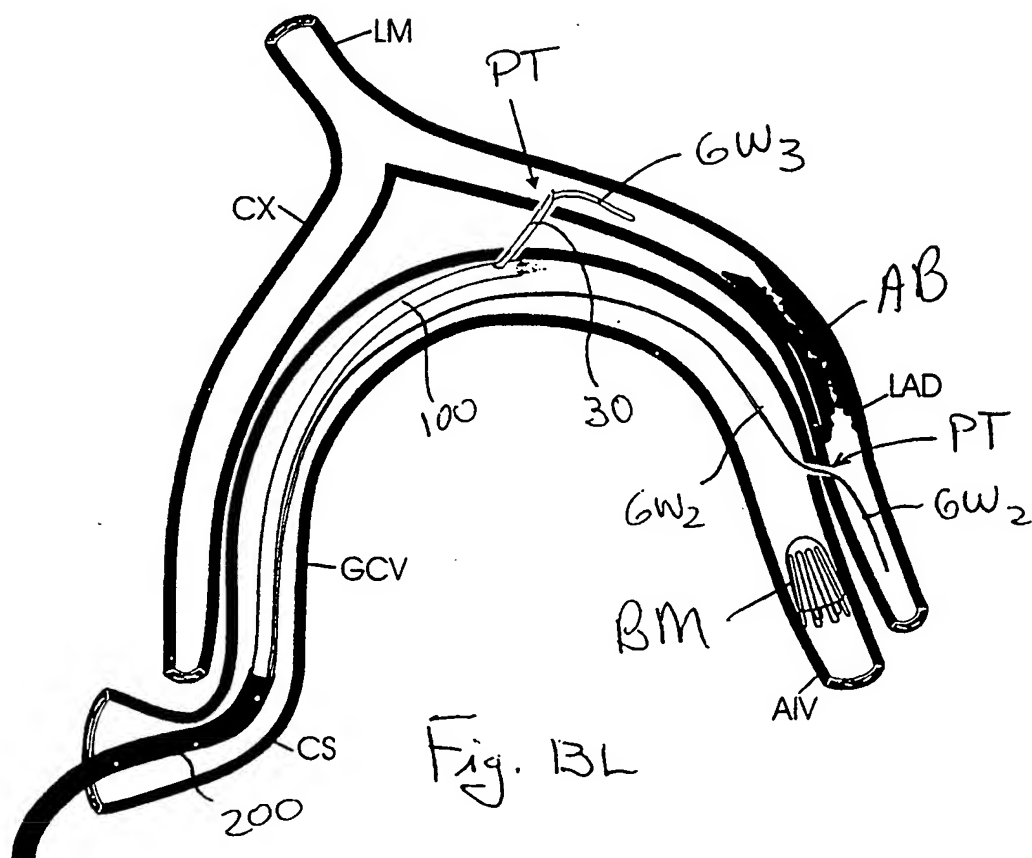
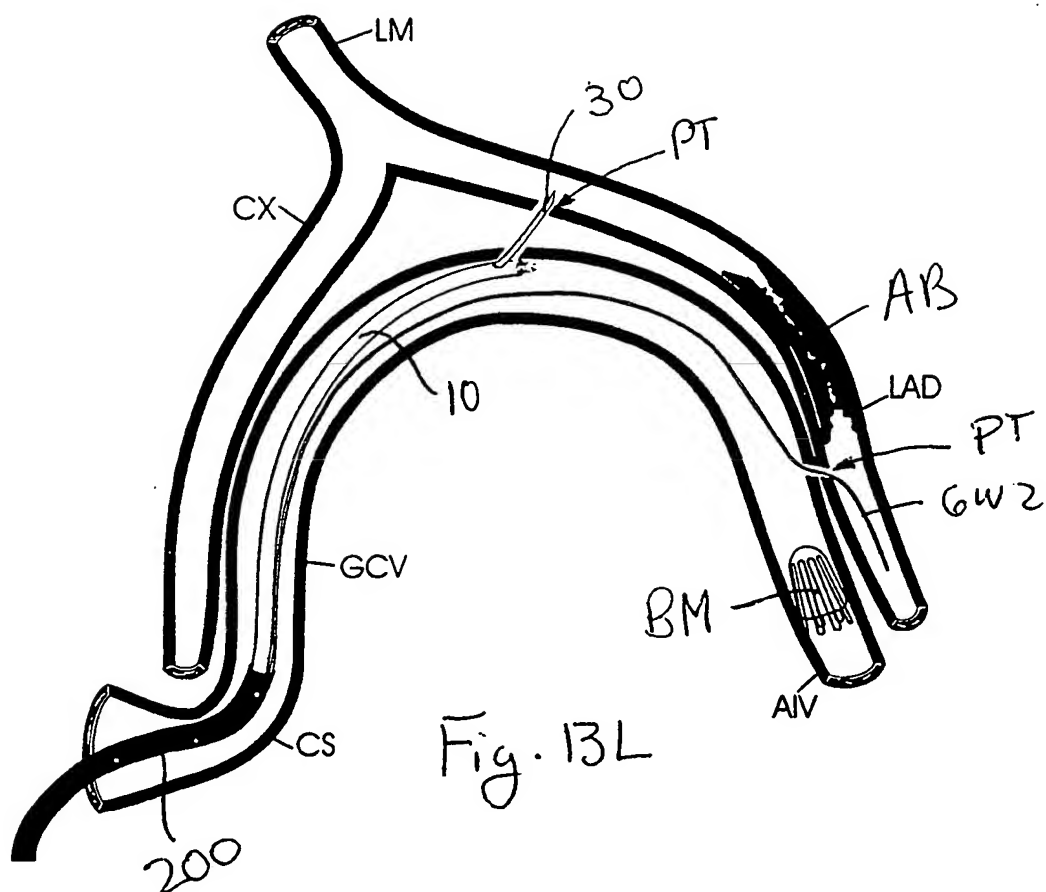


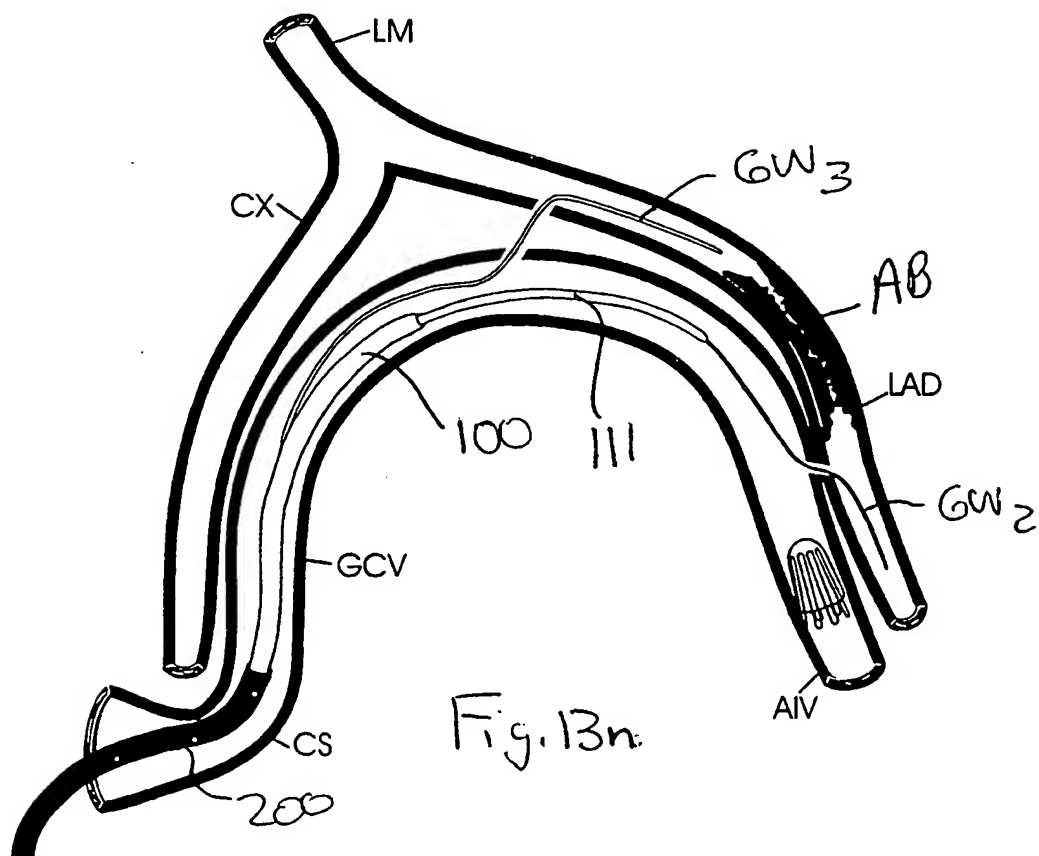
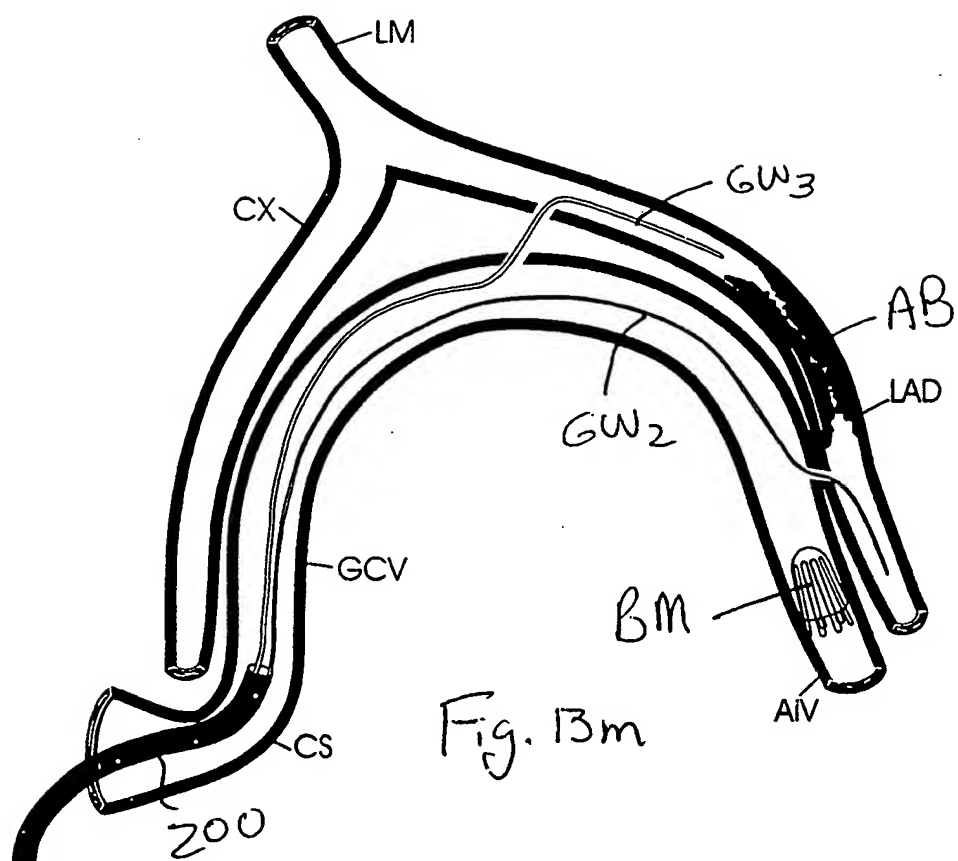


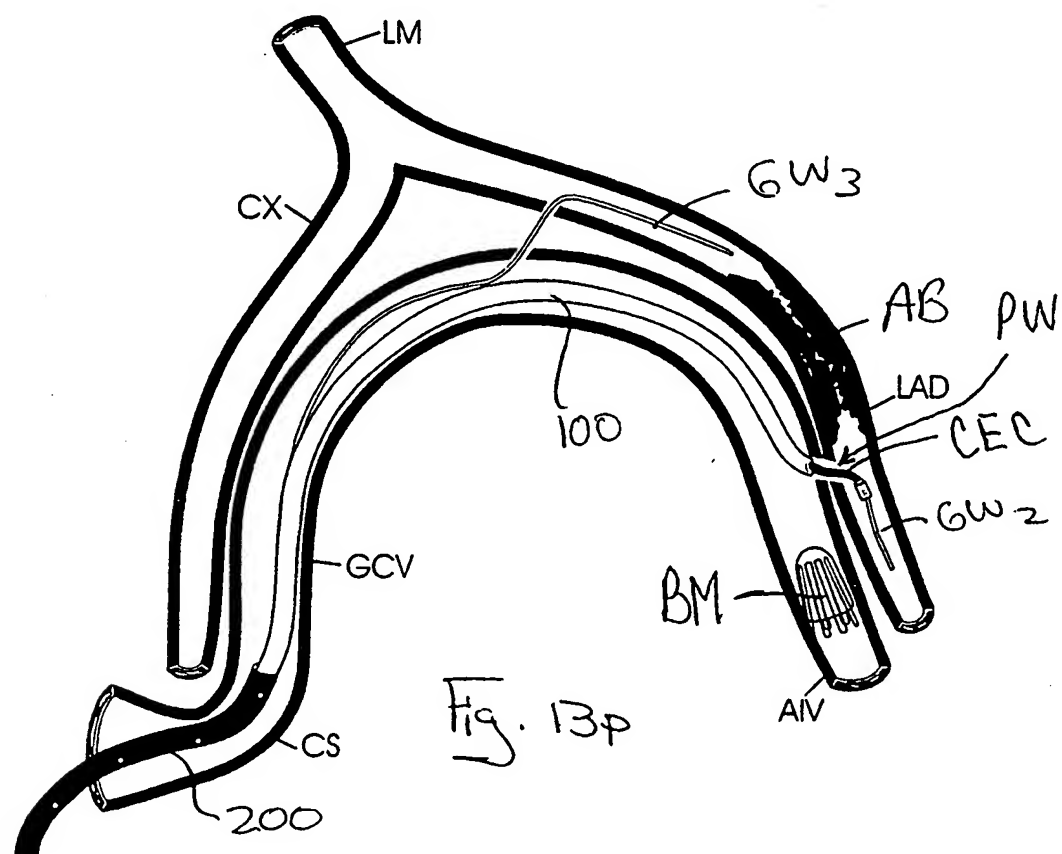
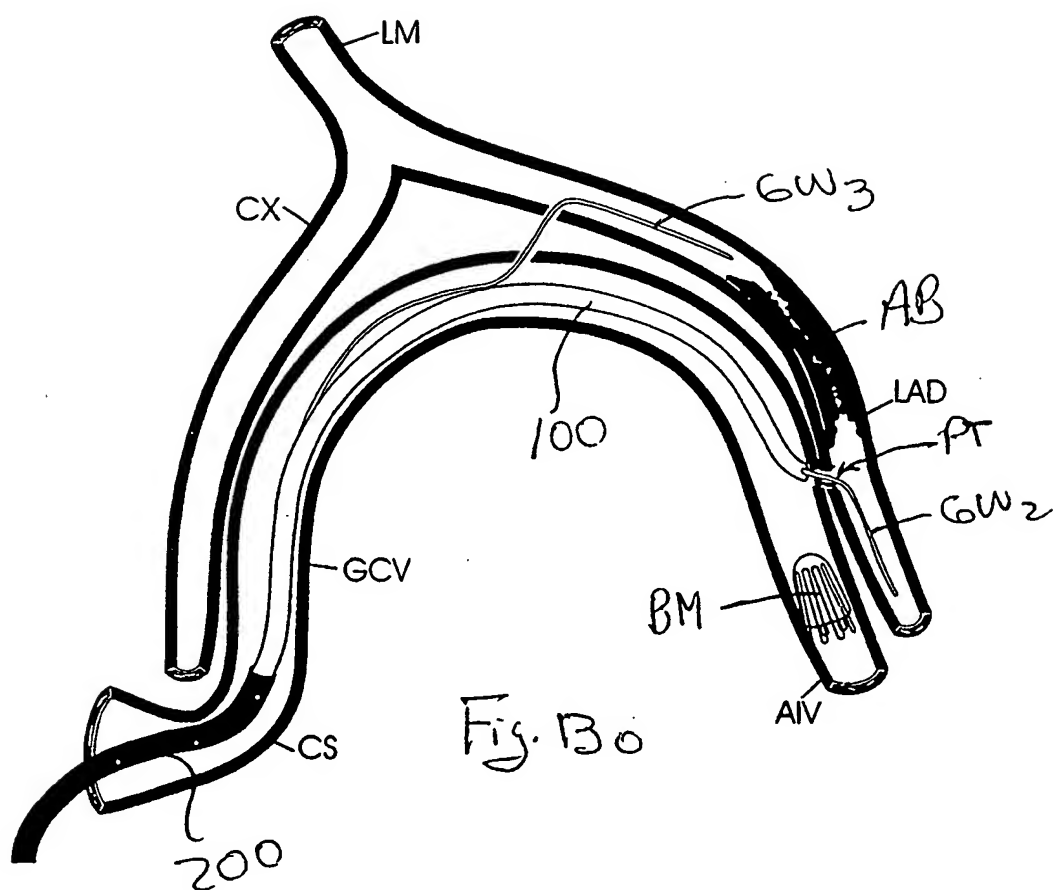


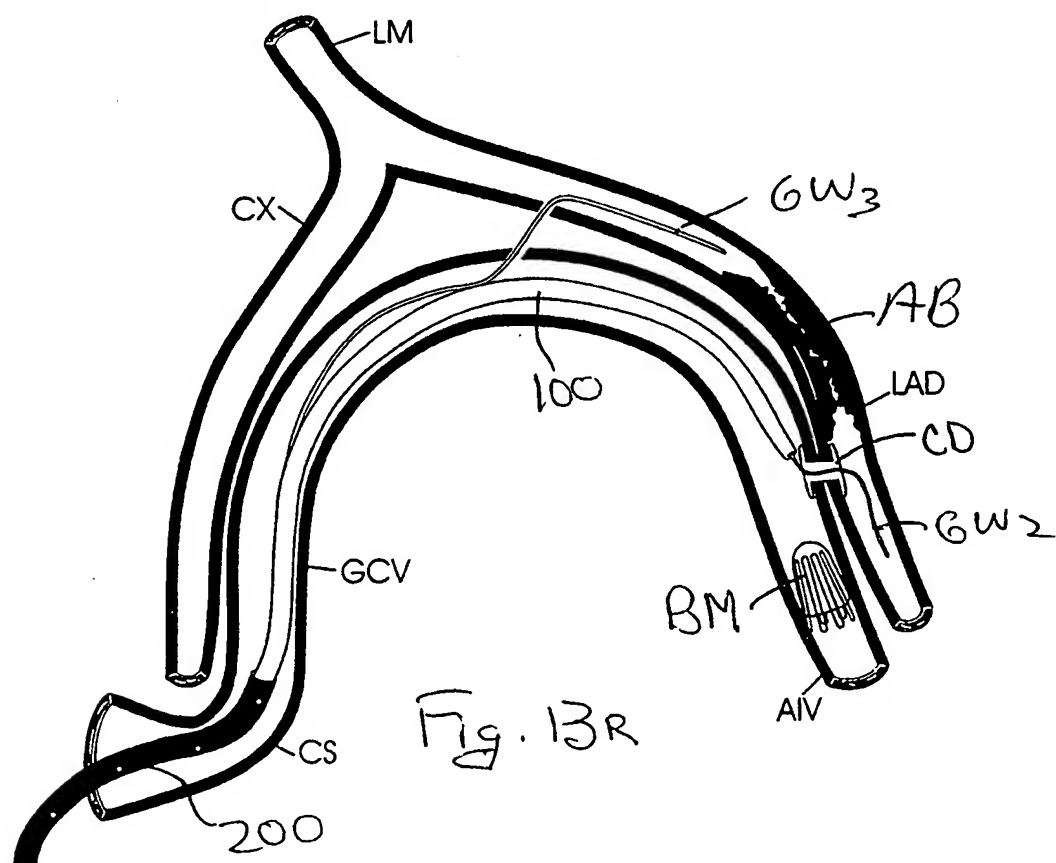
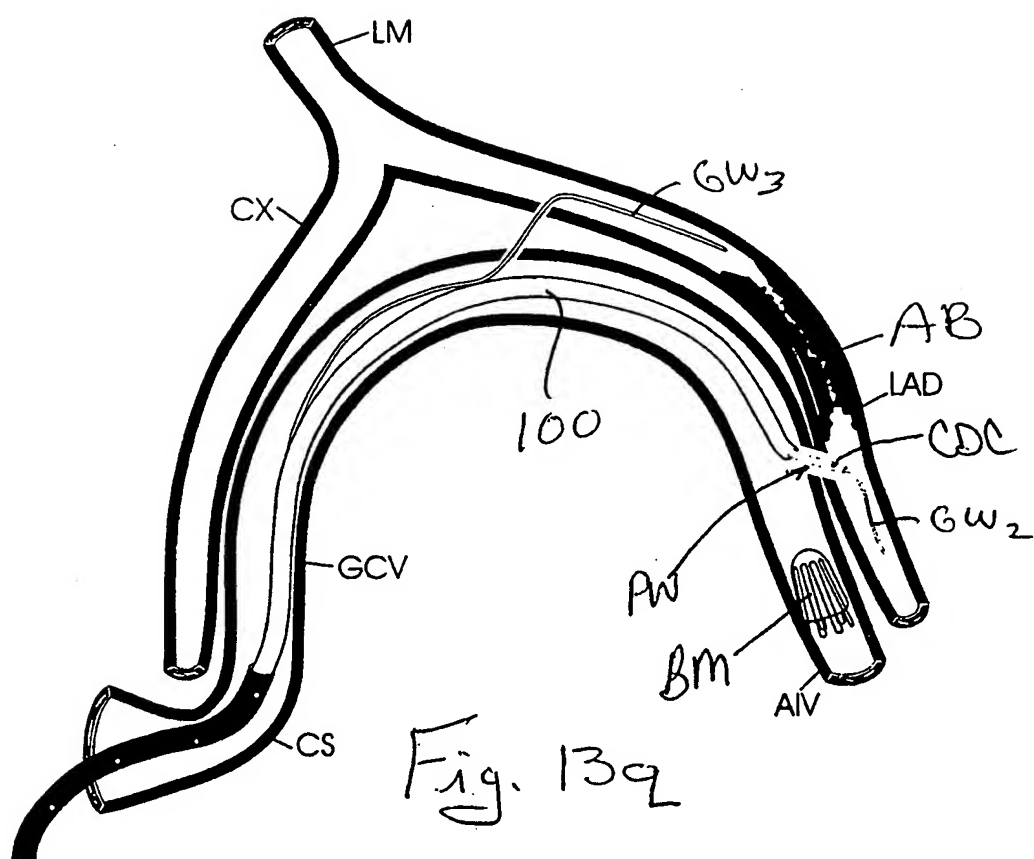












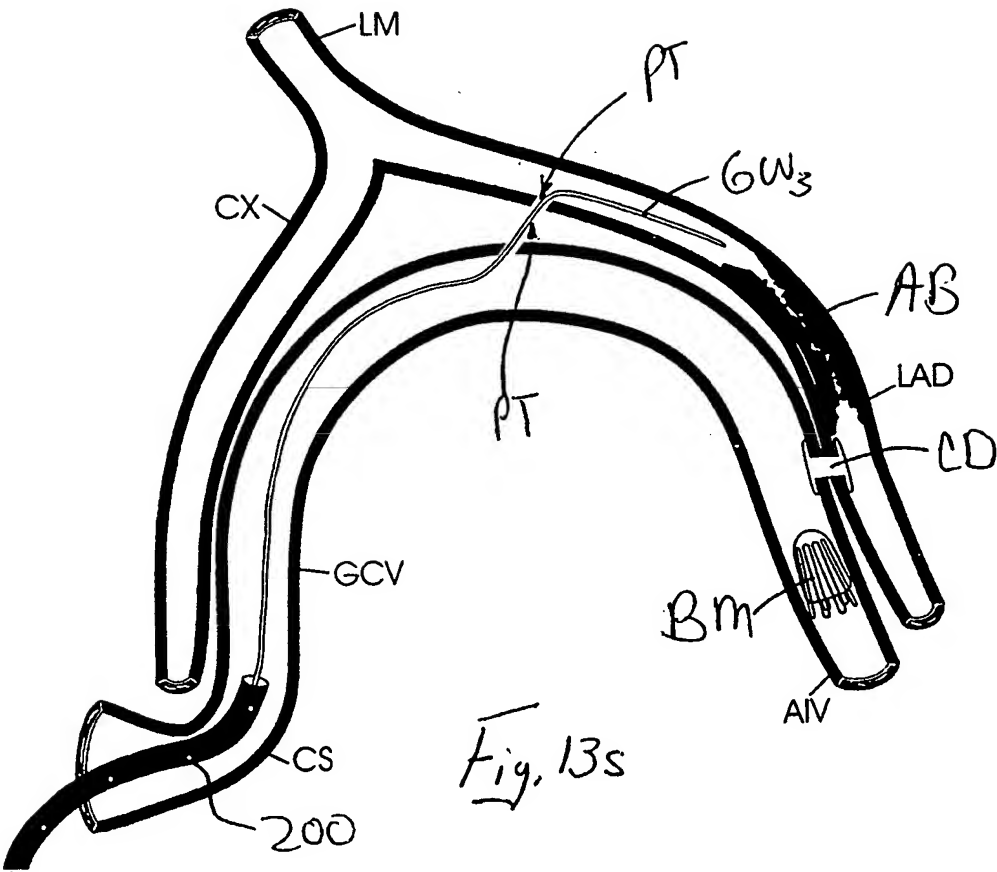
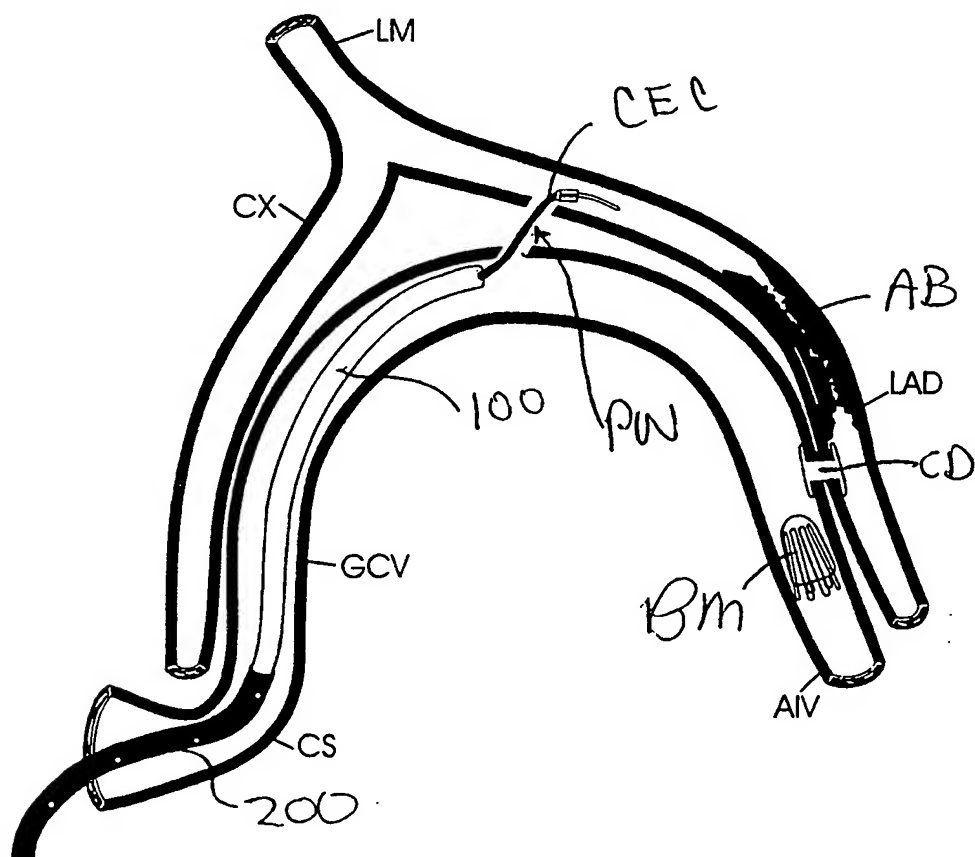
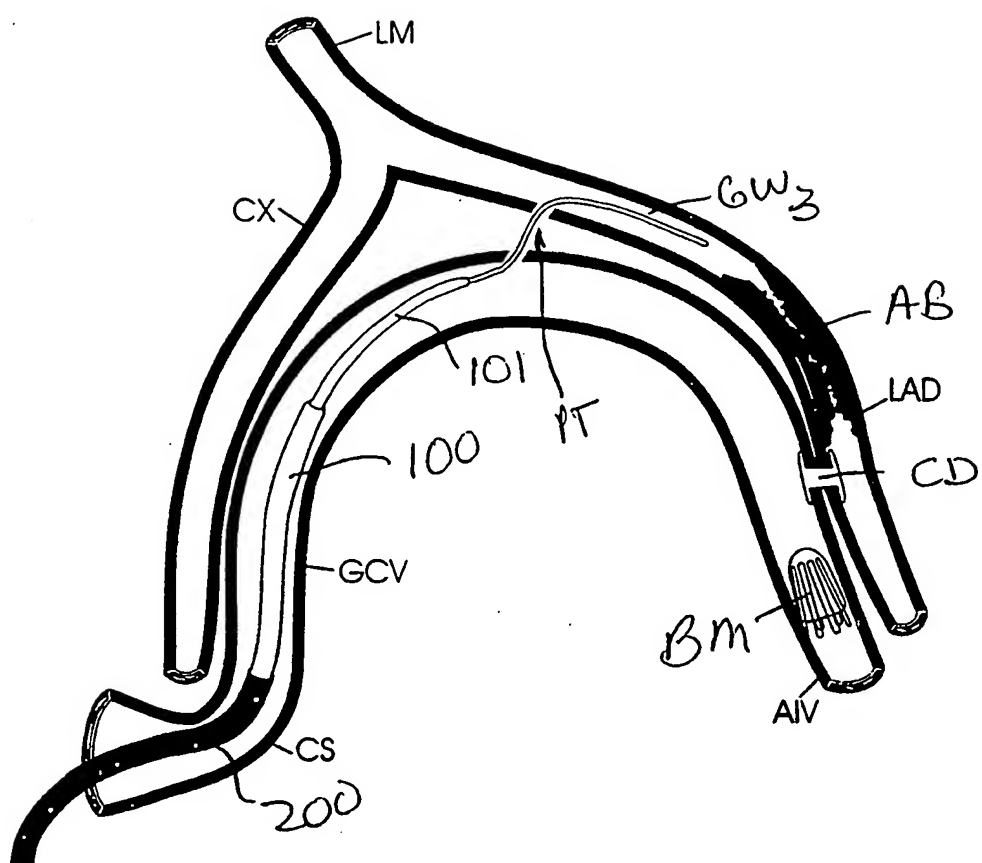
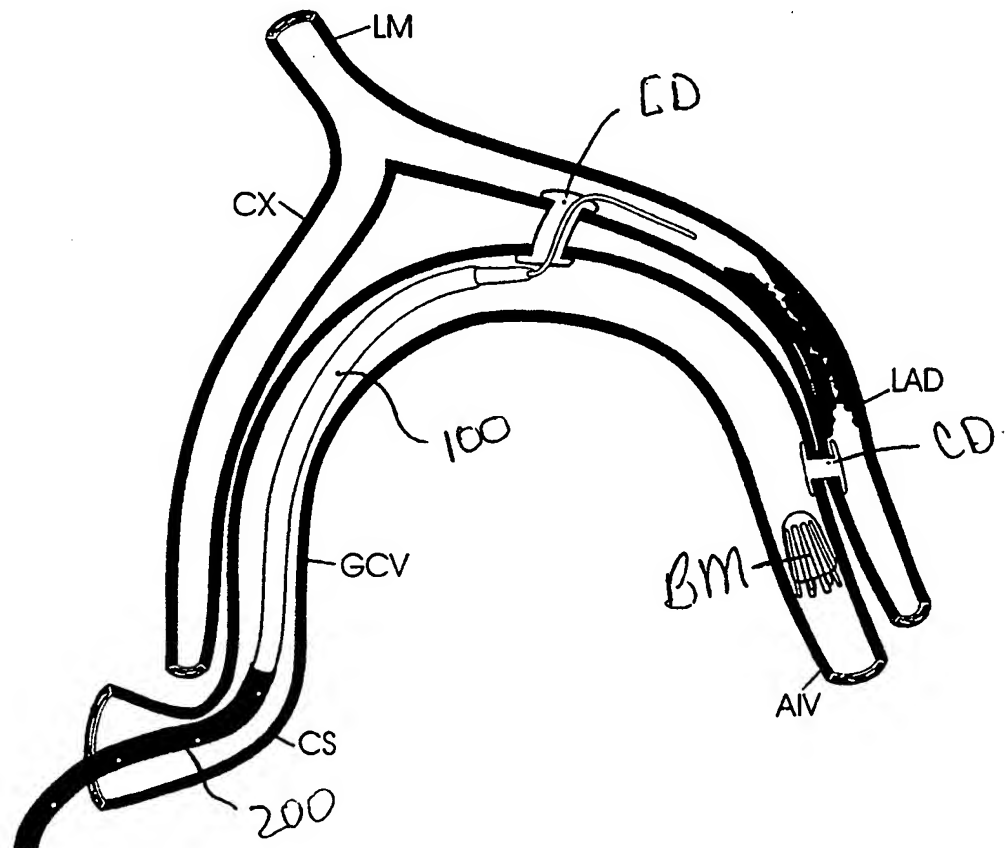
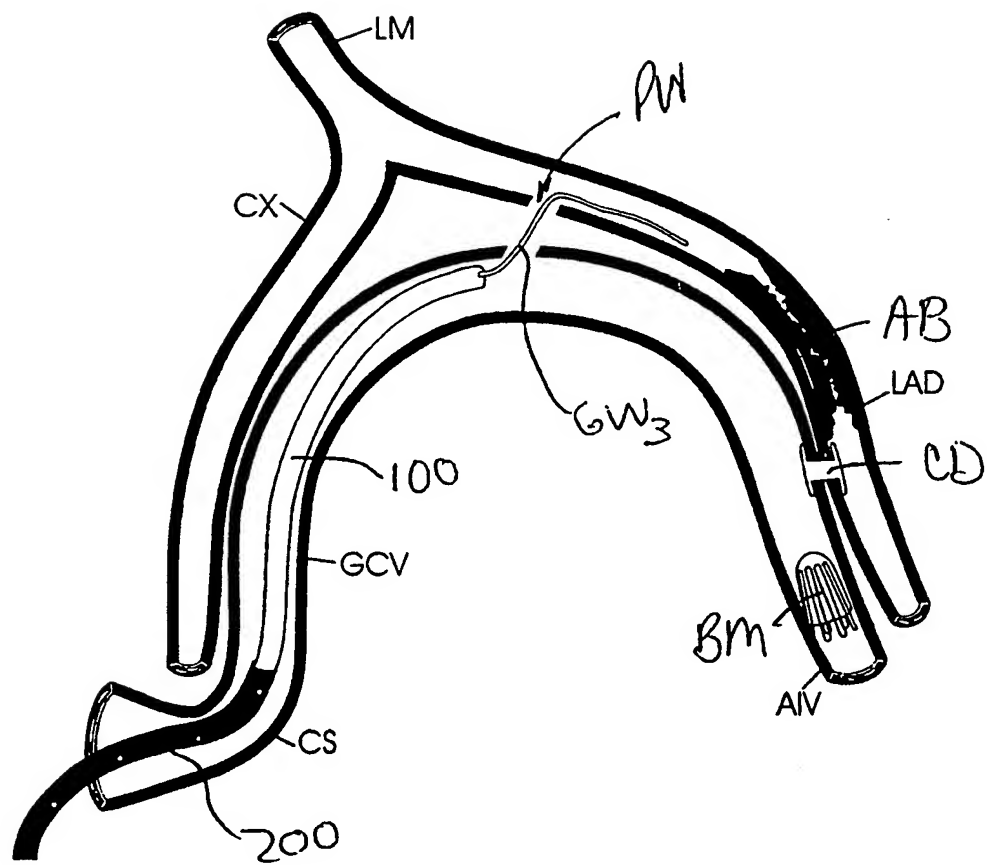
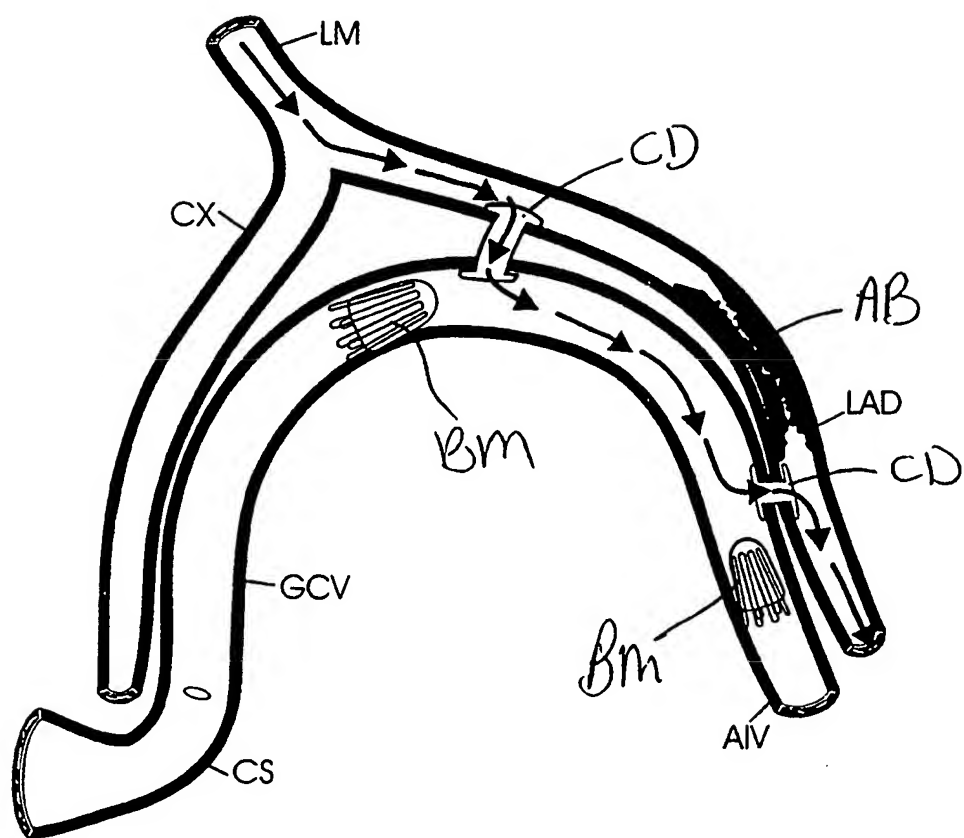
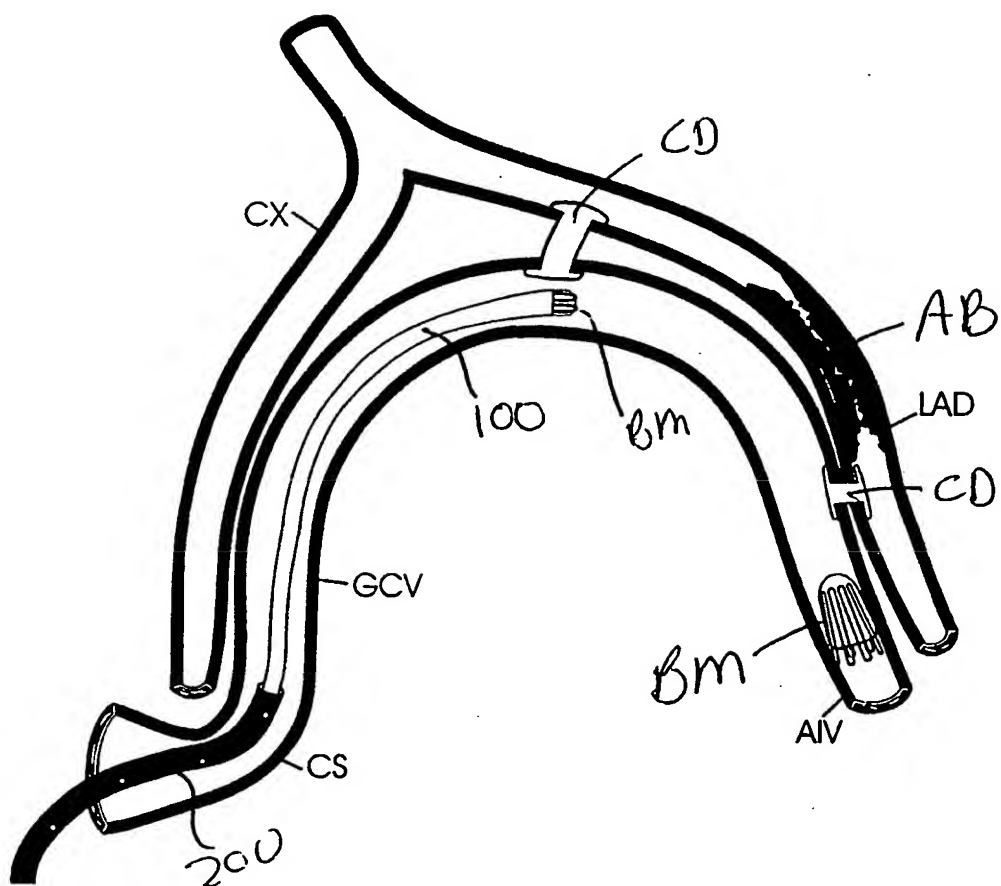
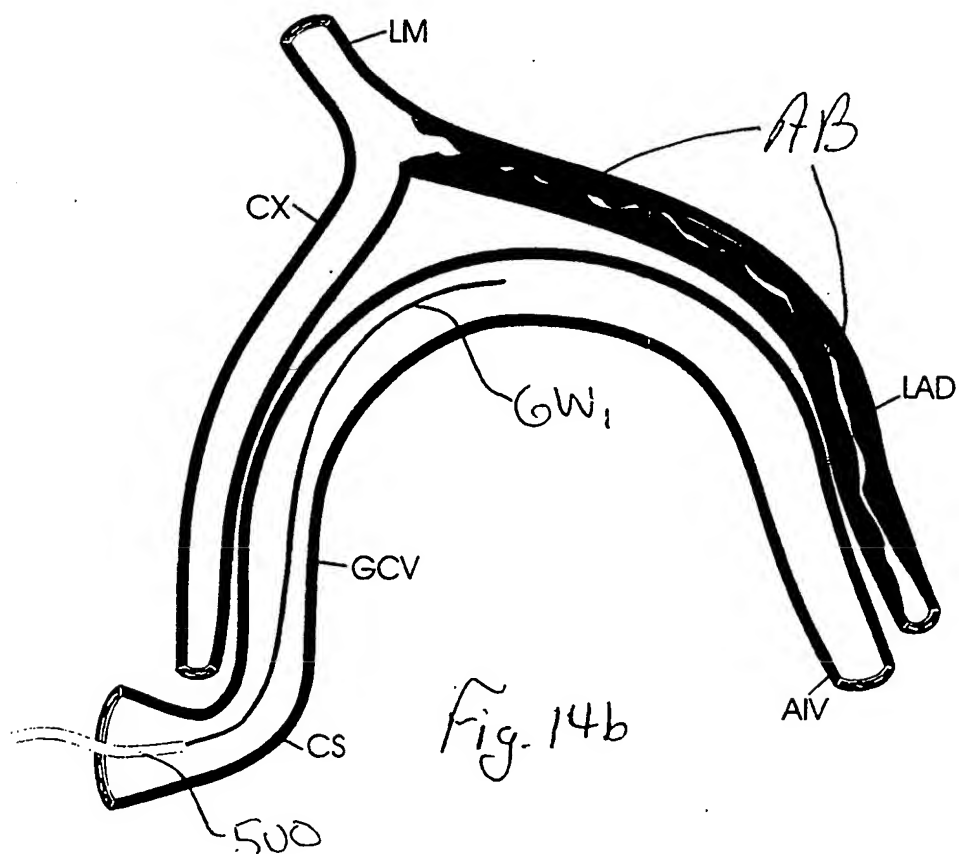
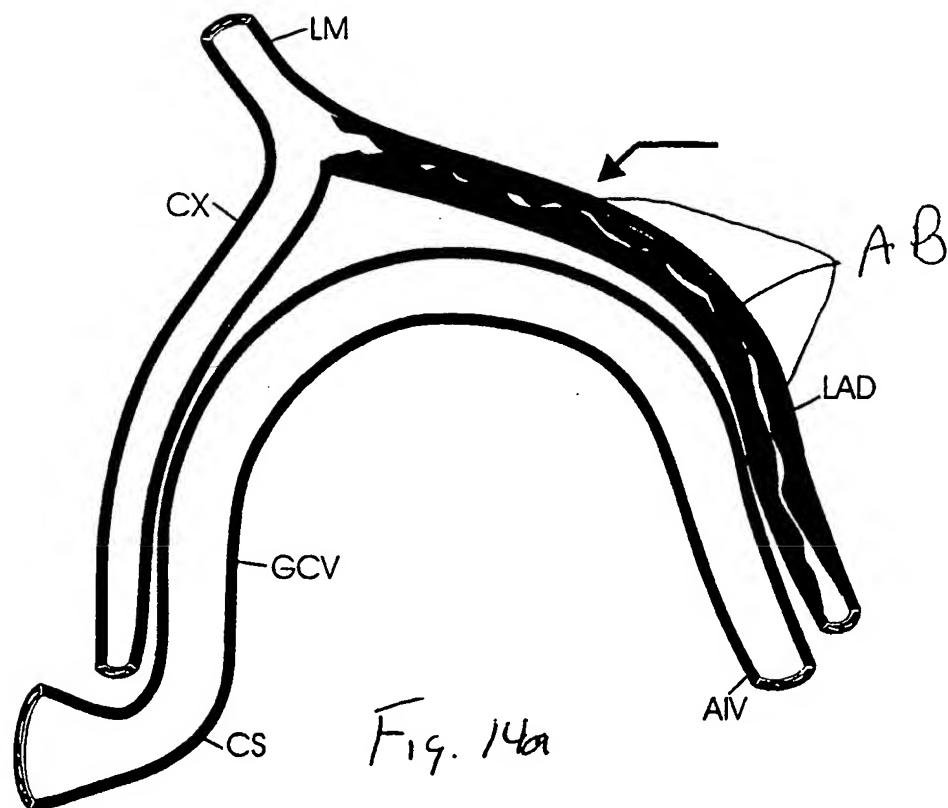


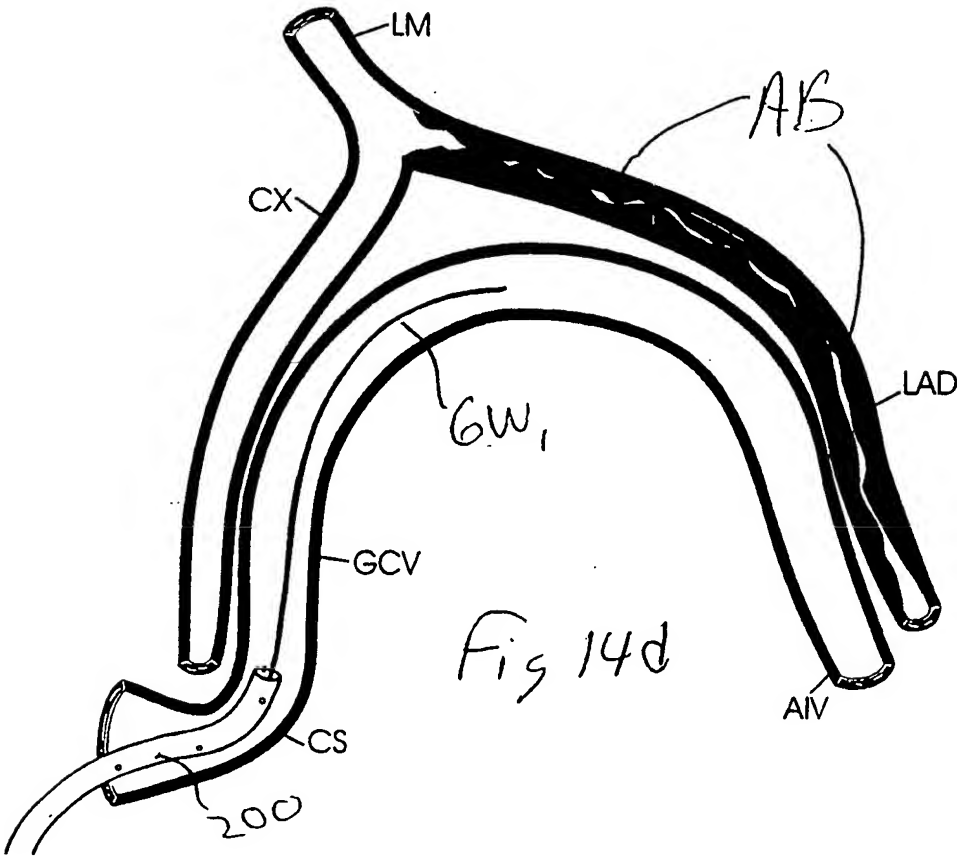
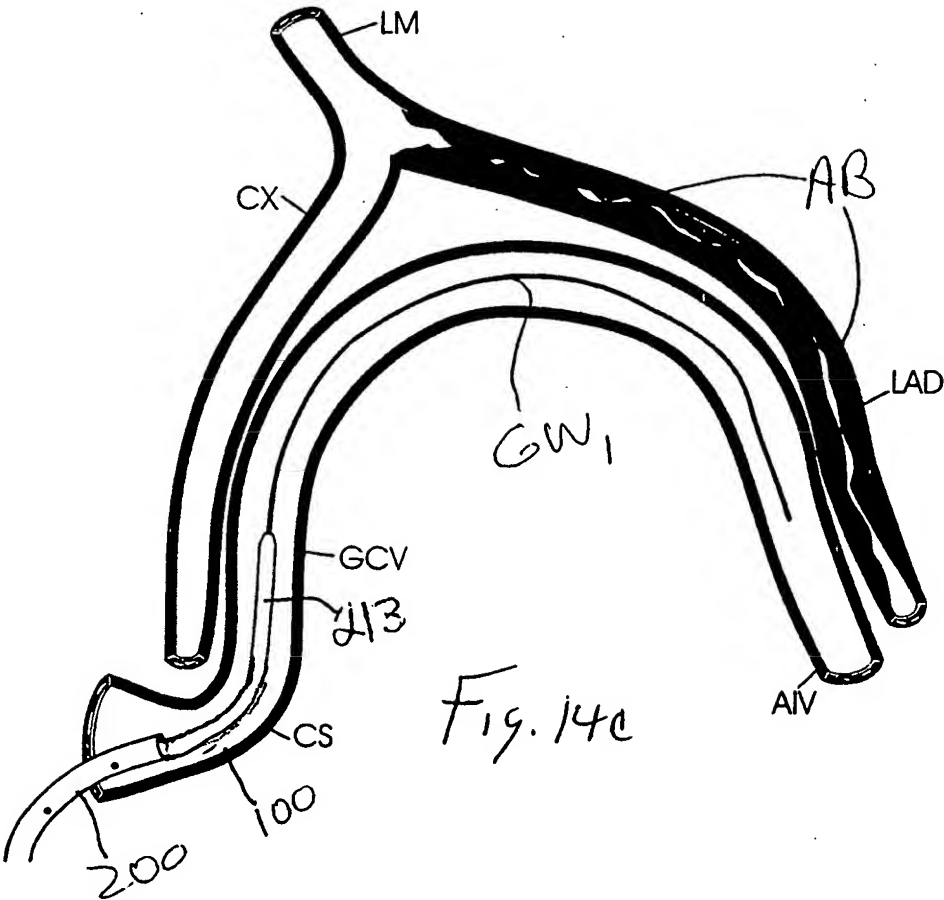
Fig. 13s

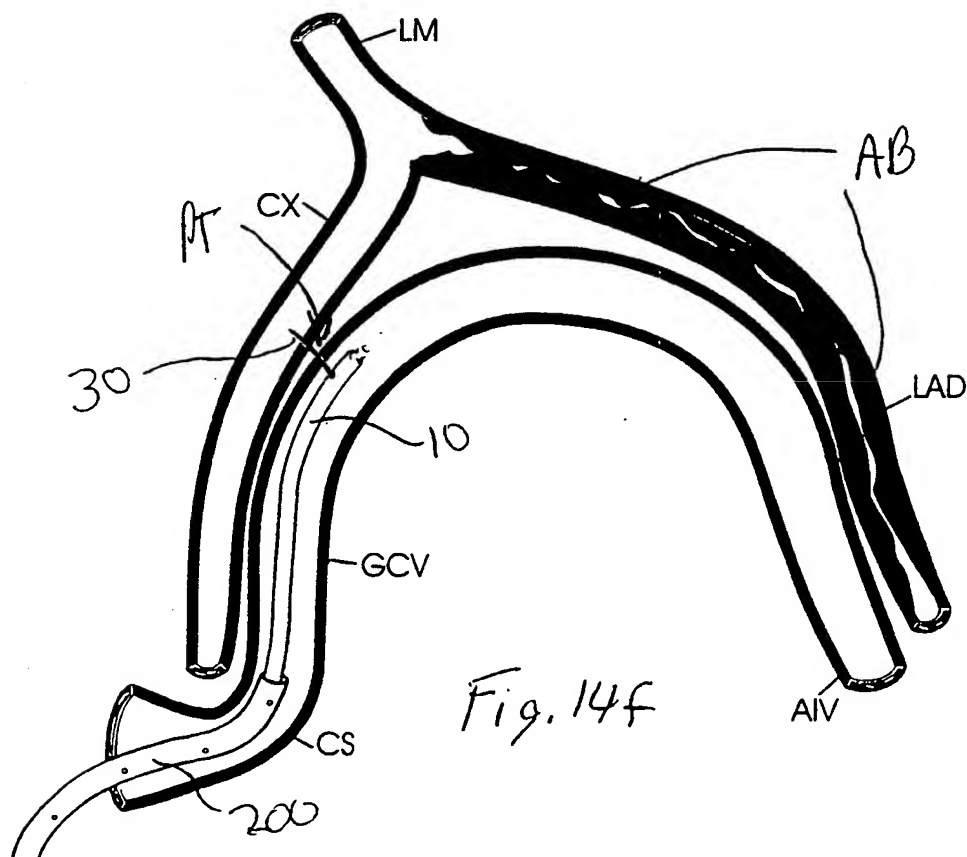
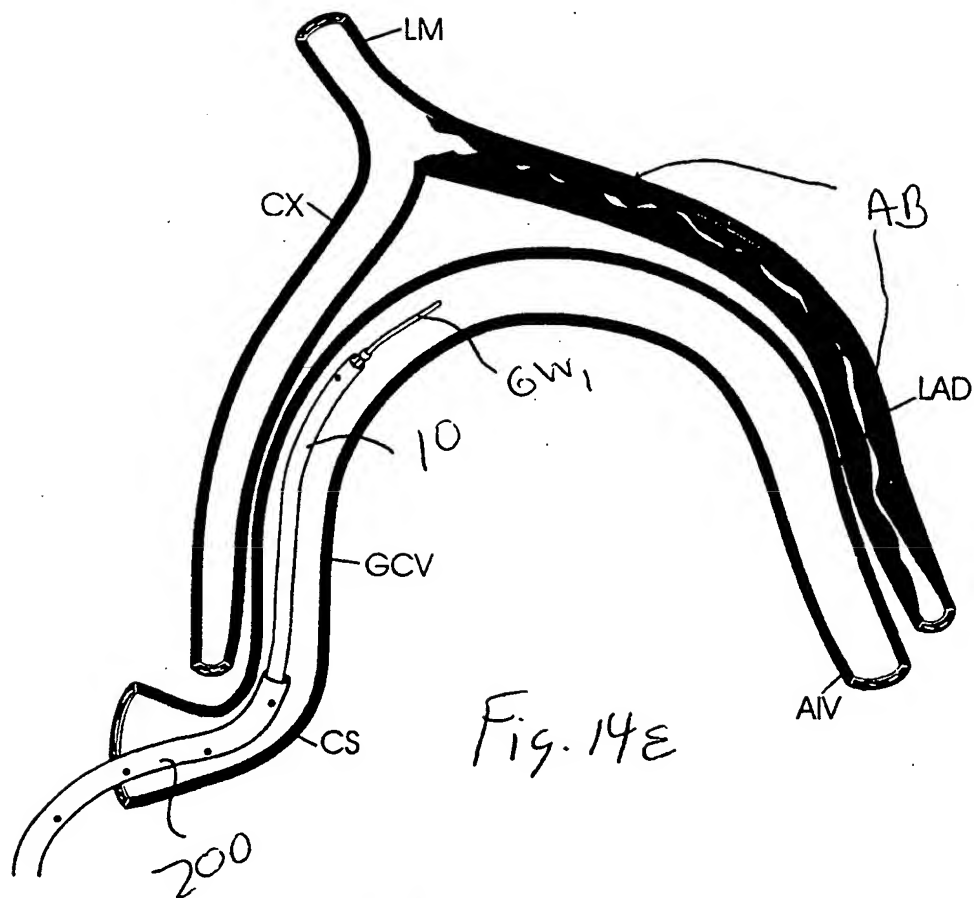


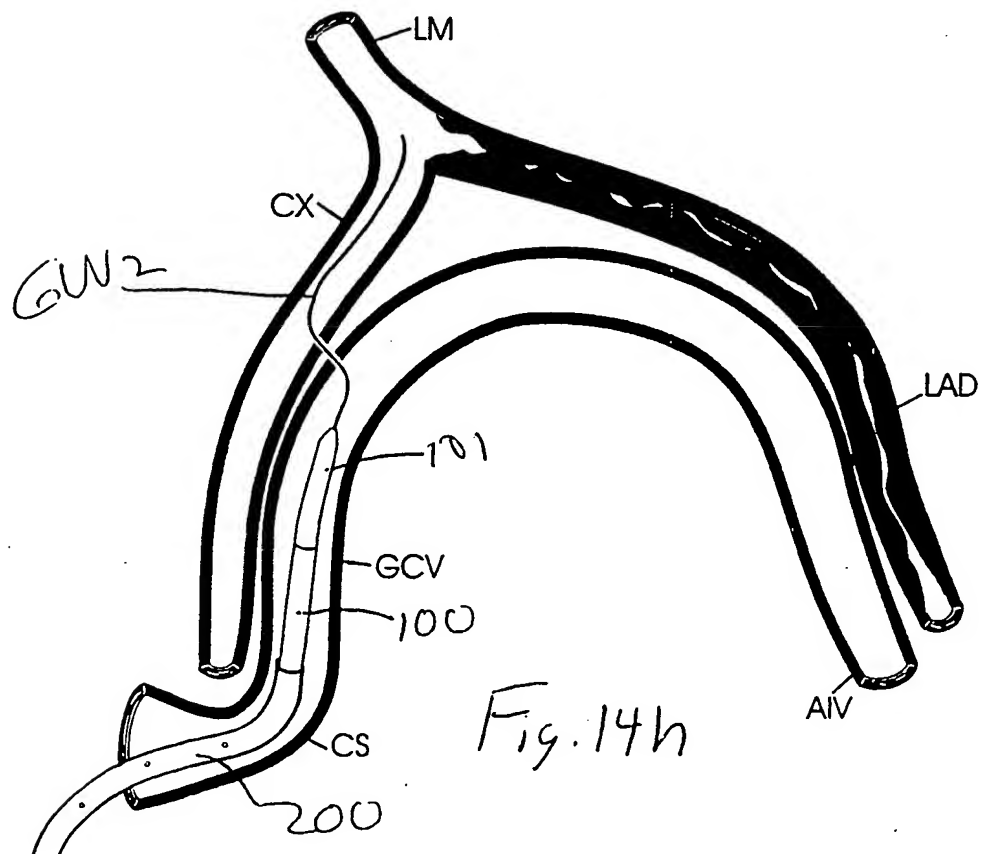
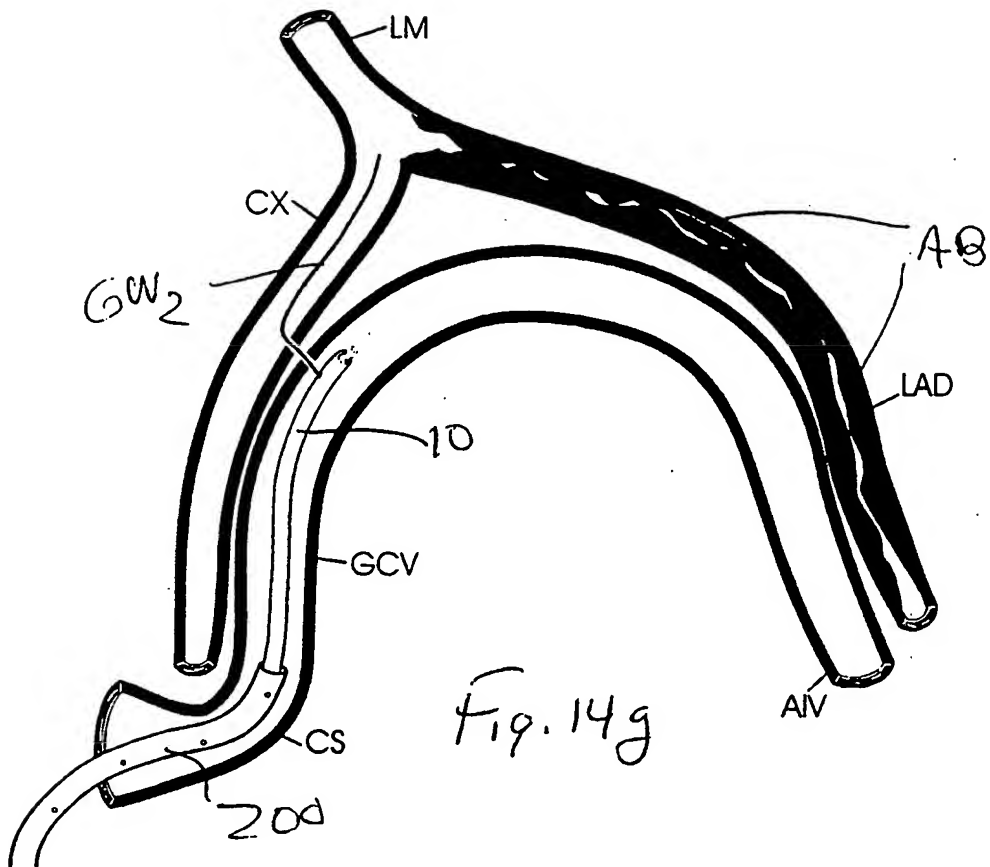


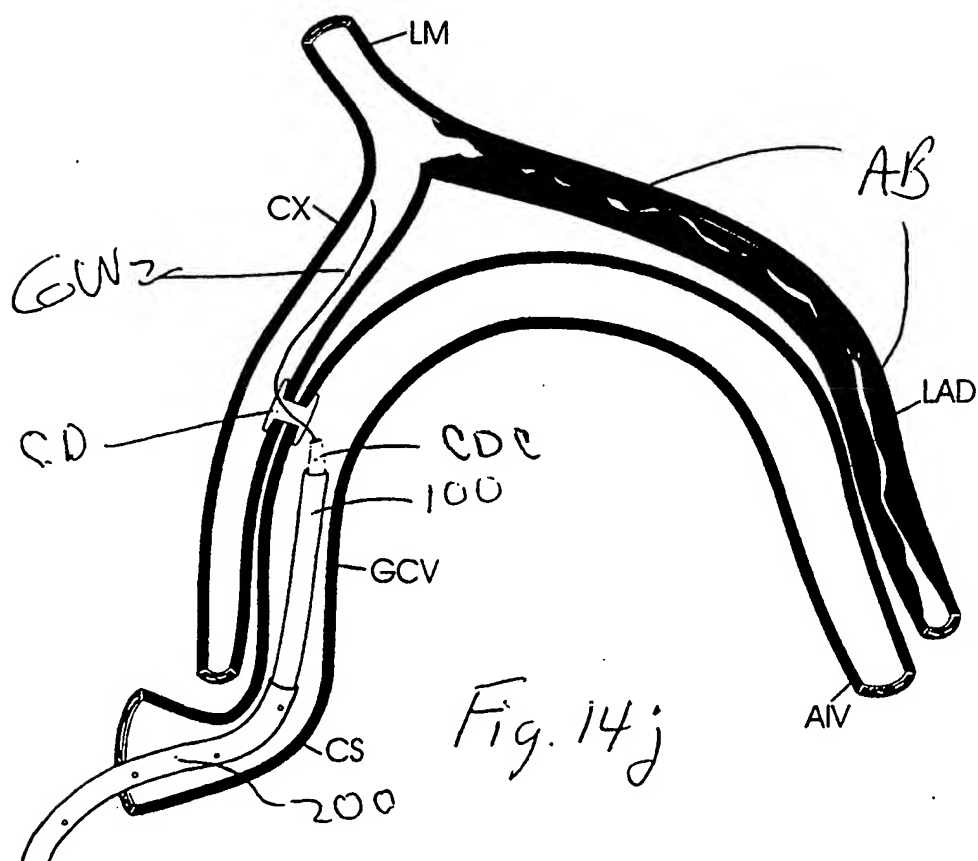
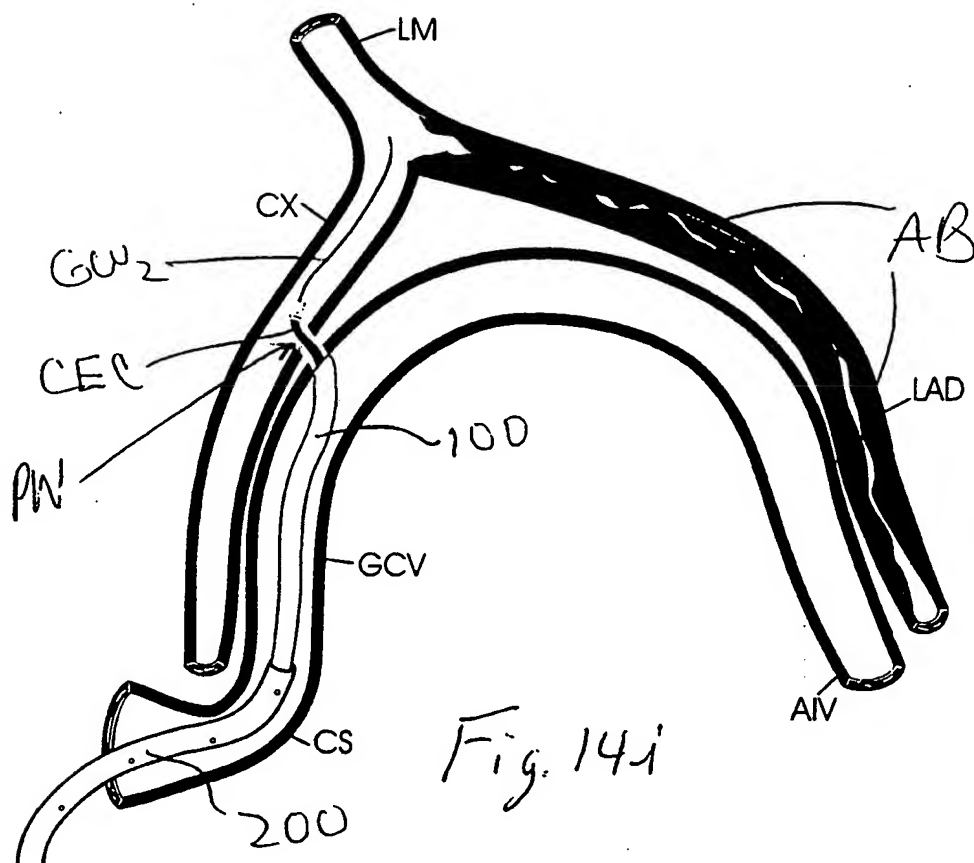


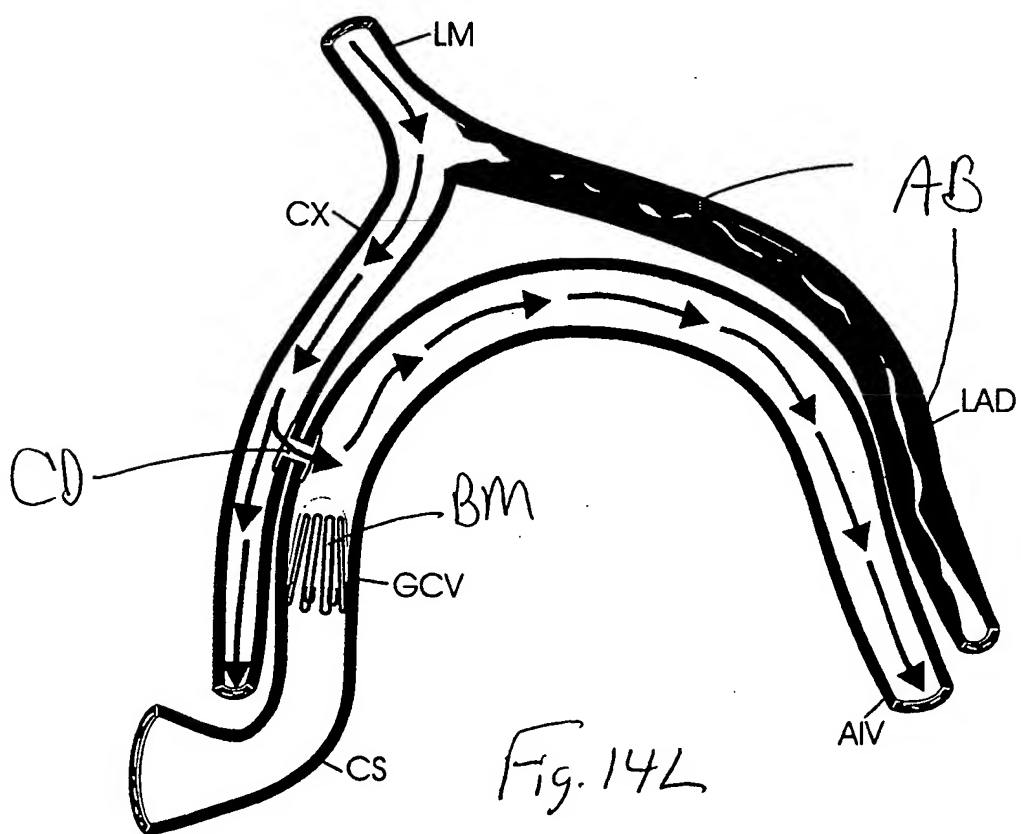
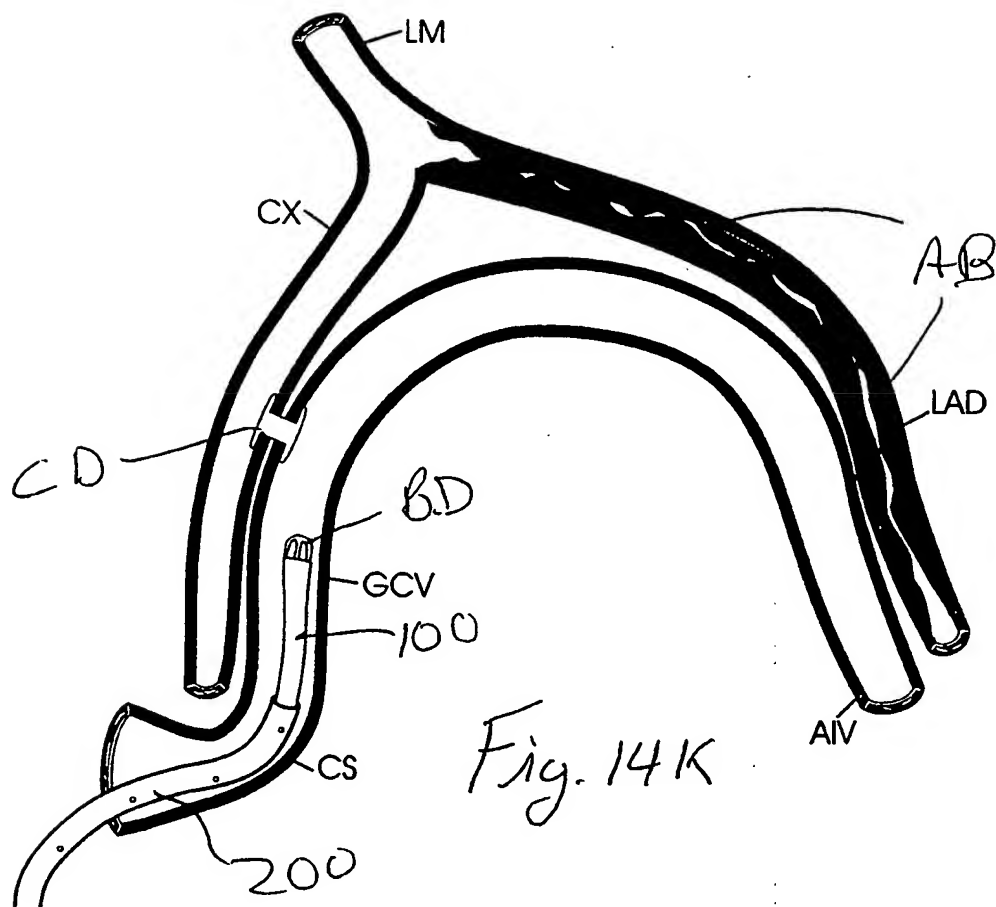












INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US99/07115

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :A61B 17/22

US CL :606/159, 170, 180

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 606/159, 170, 180

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,662,671 A (BARBUT et al.) 02 September 1997, Fig. 1, and col. 9 lines 9-68.	1-41
Y	US 5,681,336 A (CLEMENT et al.) 28 October 1997, Fig. 1, and col. 4 lines 1-68.	42-44
Y	US 5,863,362 A (ROWLAND et al.) 04 November 1997, Fig. 1, and col. 4 lines 30-68.	1-41
X, P	US 5,814,064 A (DANIEL et al.) 29 September 1998, Fig. 1, and col. 3-5.	1



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 MAY 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

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